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EDITORIAL

"It's Our Anniversary — Again!"
by **Jim Salicrup**

Well, we must be doing something right to last two whole years! Yep, with this issue, **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** is celebrating its second anniversary. We're as proud as can be. Proud because we've succeeded in giving you the type of magazine you've always wanted. We read every card and letter you send us very carefully and do our best to make **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** your magazine.

Now, we could rest on our laurels and continue along just as we are, but that isn't the Marvel way. We're constantly trying to find ways to improve this magazine. Take this page for example. We've decided to move it onto the inside front cover so we could start our most popular feature, the **MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS**, right on page one, where it belongs. Beginning next issue, we'll be using smaller-sized type to cram more words onto every page. Sure, it'll mean more work for us, but it'll be worth it to squeeze an extra article or two into every issue without having to raise our ridiculously low cover price. And that's not all. We've been talking to Dandy **Dan Fingeroth** about beginning a series of fun-filled Marvel fumettis, which we would run on our inside back cover. Considering how popular the **MARVEL FUMETTI BOOK** and the fumetti pages in **KA-ZAR** were, we're sure this'll become a favorite feature fast! Of course, we've got other plans too, but we've got to save a few surprises.

Last year, I ended this column by dedicating each and every issue of **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** to you, the loyal Marvel follower. This year, I'd like to thank you for your support. Like we've always said, we'd be nothing without you.

JIM SALICRUP

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MARVEL COMING ATTRACTIONS

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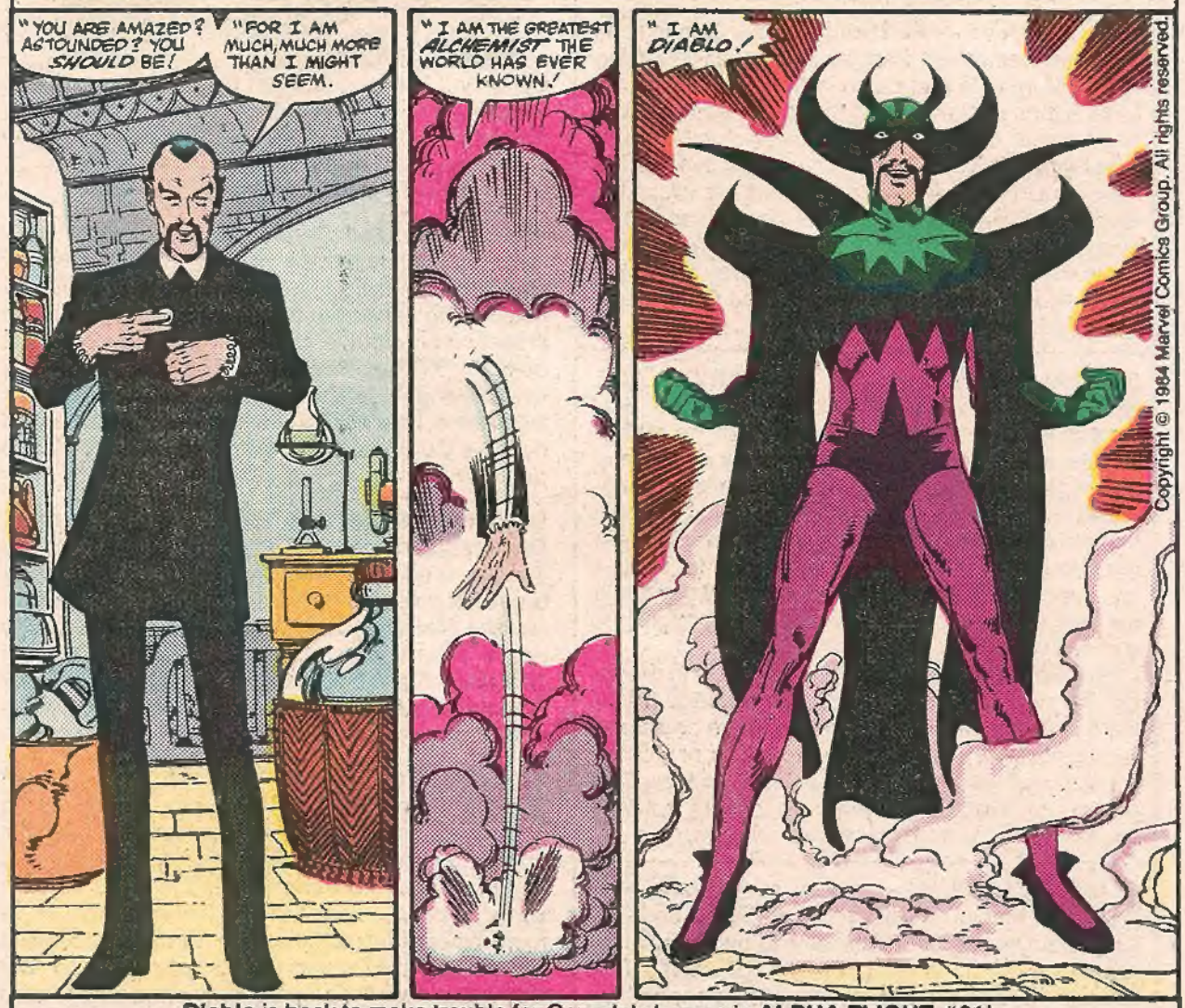
Here is a complete list of what's happening in all the Marvel titles bearing an **April** cover date.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is a trade paperback-sized edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to the date the comics leave the printer.


"YOU ARE AMAZED? ASTOUNDED? YOU SHOULD BE!
"FOR I AM MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN I MIGHT SEEM.
"I AM THE GREATEST ALCHEMIST THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.
"I AM DIABLO!
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Diablo is back to make trouble for Canada's heroes in **ALPHA FLIGHT** #21!

Warning! Be sure to reserve the copies of your favorite title as soon as possible! Marvel Comics sell out so fast that unless your favorite comics shop owner knows which ones you want, they might be gone before you can get them. And we don't want anyone to run the risk of missing out on what's happening!

Titles Shipping **December 4**, on sale **December 25.**

THE THING #22 — For almost a year, the weird world of **the Beyonder** has been **Ben's** prison. **Ben** finally faces the truth about himself, this world and **Tarianna** when he pushes . . . the Button! "To All Things An Ending!" written by **John Byrne**, penciled by **Ron Wilson** and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 65¢.

DAREDEVIL #217 — He's deadly and he's dangerous because he doesn't care who he kills! He's **the Cossack** and **Daredevil** and **the Black Widow** must team up to stop this madman who has the power to strike New York City blind! "Sight Stealer!" written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled and inked by **David Mazzucchelli**. 65¢

NEW MUTANTS #26 — He is **Legion** — and he packs a punch! How powerful? **The New Mutants** find out the hard way when they get locked into a deadly battle with this man who is not only a mutant, but also **Prof. X's** son! "Legion!" written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled, inked and cover painting by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. 65¢

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1 — The premiere issue of a brand new series about Marvel's favorite wall-crawler! And it starts off with *the* story everyone has been clamoring to see — the final confrontation between **Spider-Man** and his new costume! We don't want to give away any secrets, but one thing everyone in the Bullpen agrees — this one is a shocker! "Final Showdown!" written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Greg LaRocque** and inked by **Jim Mooney**. 65¢

RED SONJA #8 — **Red Sonja** and her companions discover themselves trapped in an ever-tightening noose of intrigue and death in the land of Zmok Iz Llod. A monster is ravaging the realm, and its rulers believe that only the mystic power slumbering in **Red Sonja's** sword can save them! But even as the King plots to separate **Red Sonja** from her sword, his Queen secretly schemes to steal the weapon for her own diabolical purposes! "Queen of Ice and Blood!" written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Mary Wilshire** and inked by **Marie Severin** and **Geof Isherwood**. 65¢

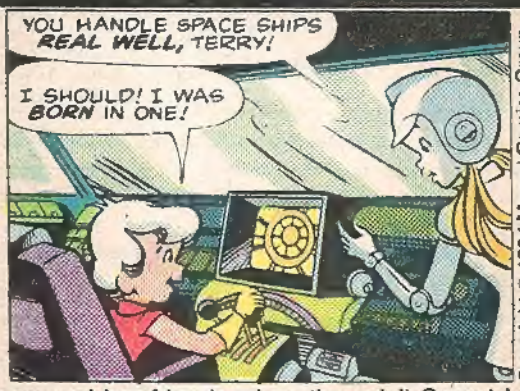
SPECIAL NOTE: Some of our **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** readers may wonder why the Star Comics line is listed here. Well, first of all, we at Marvel are committed to the idea that *any* comic, *any* genre, can be rewarding. Sure, Star comics are produced with younger readers in mind — but so were many classic Disney films. We wouldn't want to give the impression that our new line is *just* for kids — and deprive you of the possible enjoyment you could get from them. So check a few out — they might just surprise you!

Secondly, we're asking for your support in reaching the next generation of comics readers. If you have kids of your own, younger brothers or sisters, young nieces or nephews, young cousins, or you just know a good kid or two — why not pick up a few Star comics for them? We'd really appreciate it if you dropped us a line and told us their reaction.

PLANET TERRY #1 — A new series for a new breed of Marvel maniacs! Meet **Terry** and his sidekicks **Omnus** and **Robota** who begin the star-spanning quest to find **Terry's** parents! "The Search" written by **Lenny Herman**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Vince Colletta**. From Star Comics. 65¢

FRAGGLE ROCK #1 — The debut issue of those wacky rock-n-rollers from the creators of **the Muppets**! The **Fraggle Rock** gang discovers the dangers of time when they find a mysterious Metronome in "The Magic Time Machine" written by **Stan Kay**, penciled and inked by **Marie Severin**. From Star Comics. 65¢

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #1 — The sweetest girl in Strawberry Land now stars in her own comic! But will all the fun and festivities be ruined when **Strawberry** meets **Raisin Cain** — the newest member of Strawberry Land! And what happens to **Strawberry** and her friends when they visit Secret Land — where nobody's secret is sacred? "Strawberry Shortcake's Great Pie Baking Contest" written by **Stan Kay**, penciled by **Howard Post** and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. From Star Comics. 65¢



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ICEMAN (Limited Series) #3 — **Iceman's** existence on earth has been nullified! And the only way **Iceman** can possibly return is if he becomes an unquestioning servant to the being who destroyed his presence on earth — **Oblivion**! Guest-Starring **the original X-Men, the New Defenders** and **the Champions**! "Quicksand" written by **J. Marc DeMatteis**, penciled by **Alan Kupperberg** and inked by **Mike Gustovich**. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #3 — **Dazzler's** become a willing pawn of the evil Mutant Theatre, and everything **the Beast** does to help break her free only makes matters worse! To his horror, **the Beast** becomes locked in a battle to the death against the woman he loves — **Dazzler**! "Showtime!" written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Kim DeMulder**. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #12 — In order to squeeze all the excitement and thrills into the final issue of the most popular saga of the decade, we just had to add more pages! This special double-sized issue is the one we've all been waiting for! See **Doctor Doom** wield more power than any man dared dream possible! And of all the super heroes gathered on **the Beyonder's** world, can any one find a way to stop him? They'd better, and fast, before the universe itself becomes **Dr. Doom's** victim! A cosmic conclusion written by **Jim Shooter**, penciled by **Mike Zeck** and inked by **John Beatty**. Printed on high quality Mando paper. $1.00.

Titles shipping **December 11**, on sale **January 1**.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #263 — This one's really different! A kid worships super-villains and at long last he attains his heart's desire — the chance to impersonate **Spider-Man**! See what that does to **Spidey's** less than reputable reputation — and more — in "The Spectacular Spider-Kid!" written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz** and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 65¢

CAPTAIN AMERICA #304 — Stane International has **Cap's** mighty shield! And **Cap** has vowed to get it back! But can even the legendary skill of the star-spangled Avenger overcome an opponent who wears armor created from the same mysterious metal as **Cap's** invincible shield? Written by **Mike Carlin**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **Dennis Janke**. 65¢

INDIANA JONES #28 — The world's most famous archaeologist embarks on his most dangerous adventure yet when he searches for the mysterious Tower of Tears. Are they real, or simply a diabolical hoax? One man, a self-proclaimed sorceror, believes in them and plans to use the Tower of Tears' power to destroy the world! "Tower of Tears" written by **Linda Grant**, penciled by **Steve Ditko** and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. 65¢

POWER PACK #9 — It's off to Coney Island with the world's youngest super heroes and their grandfather! But instead of fun at the Coney Island Aquarium, **Power Pack** runs headlong into a giant sea serpent! It's **Gee, Lightspeed, Mass Master, Energizer** and **Marrina** from **Alpha Flight** to the rescue! Written by **Louise Simonson. Brent Anderson**, penciller, **Bob Wiacek**, inker. 65¢

MICRONAUTS #7 — This special issue spotlights **Acroyear**! Haunted by his past, troubled by his present, **Acroyear** searches for the way to finally be free to face his future! "In the Hand . . . Fire!" written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Rod Whigham** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 65¢

ALPHA FLIGHT #21 — The shocking origin of the evil **Gilded Lily**! What secrets in **Gilded Lily's** past bind her to the deadly sorceror, **Diablo**? And what will the consequences of these revelations be on **Aurora's** life and sanity? The truth to these questions, and the fate of **Sasquatch**, is exposed in "Loverot!" written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. 65¢

DR. STRANGE #70 — Who is the sorceror, or sorcerors, transforming the world's military arsenals into primitive weapons — and why? In the meantime, the nations of earth blame each other! **Dr. Strange** must discover the truth and fast, before **Earth is ultimately destroyed in a nuclear holocaust!** "Deadly Exchange!" written by **Roger Stern**, penciled by **Bret Blevins** and inked by **Terry Austin**. 65¢

WALLY THE WIZARD #1 — Meet **Wally**, the wizard's apprentice and his master, the great **Marvin** — brother to the famous **Merlin**! And then there's the young girl who has captured **Wally's** heart, **Princess Penelope** — who treats him like he doesn't exist! Can **Wally** master the might of medieval magic? Will **Wally** win the heart of **Princess Penelope**? "A Plague of Locust" written, penciled and inked by **Bob Bolling**. A Star Comic. 65¢

TOP DOG #1 — He's no ordinary dog — he's a genius! But only his "master" **Joey Jordan** knows it — **Top Dog's** orders! The reasons for this, and why this dog from another planet is here, is revealed in "The Dog-Gone Beginning!" written by **Lenny Herman**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. And, in **Top Dog's** second story, **Joey** must save his new four-footed friend from the richest kid in town in "Dognapped!" written by **Lenny Herman**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. 65¢

HEATHCLIFF #1 — The world's most cat-ankerous cat comes to Star Comics in his first full-length comic book adventures! **Heathcliff** runs away from **Grandpa** and **Grandma Nutmeg** to live with a rich family! But **Heathcliff** discovers that rubbing elbows with the wealthy is anything but the cat's meow! "The Cat-Napping Caper" written by **Joe Edwards**, penciled by **Warren Kremer** and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher. A Star Comic. 65¢**

GROO #2 — The world's most inept barbarian finds himself locked in mortal combat with the fierce dragon, **Mocosa**! Will **Groo** be able to slay the dragon without tripping over his scabbard? Whatever the outcome, **the Minstrel** will record all for his continuing ballad of **Groo, the Barbarian**! Created, penciled and inked by **Sergio Aragones**, dialogued by **Mark Evanier**. From the Epic Line of Comics. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

DUNE (Limited Series) #1 — The first of a three-part saga adapting the spectacular movie based on the classic science fiction novel. Written by **Ralph Macchio** and penciled, inked, and cover painted by **Bill Sienkiewicz**. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #110 — **Conan** and the remnants of his mercenary army search for a path out of the mountains. Instead, they stumble into a deadly war between the immortal and the undead — between the mysterious inhabitants of the crystal City of Life and the ever-growing army of zombies seeking to destroy it — and them! "Army of the Dead!" written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled and inked by **Gary Kwapisz**, cover painting by **Earl Norem**. A Marvel Magazine. $1.50.

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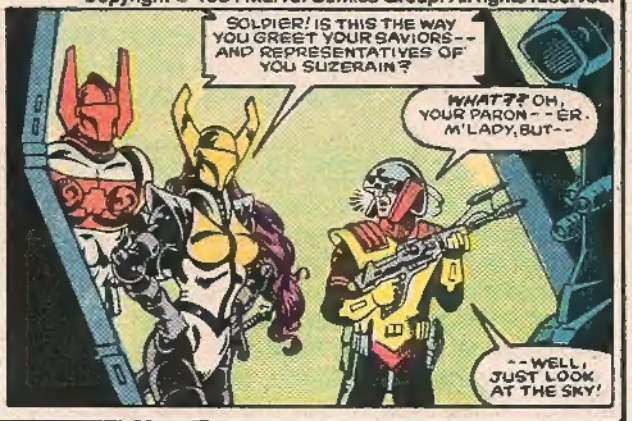
SOLDIER! IS THIS THE WAY YOU GREET YOUR SAVIORS-- AND REPRESENTATIVES OF YOU SUZERAIN?
WHAT?? OH, YOUR PARON--ER. M'LADY, BUT--
--WELL, JUST LOOK AT THE SKY!

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DREADSTAR #17 — **Willow** the blind, cybernetic telepath, disappears. But she's not been kidnapped — she's on a quest! She doesn't want **Vanth** or anyone to find out and follow her! **Willow** is searching for her father, and when she finds him, she plans to make him pay for what he's done! "Revenge!" written and penciled by **Jim Starlin**, inked by **Sam de la Rosa**. From the Epic line of comics. Direct Sales only. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

VOID INDIGO #2 — **Jhagur's** quest to find **the Dark Lords** continues. But will his brutal methods flush them out or cause him to be destroyed by a vengeful police force? Created and written by **Steve Gerber**, penciled, inked and colored by **Val Mayerik**. From the Epic line of comics. Direct sales only. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

ALIEN LEGION #6 — **The Harkilons** deploy their first nuclear weapons! And it looks like they'll use them before **the Alien Legion** can stop them! Plus in the second feature, **Commander Nodrad** reveals the truth behind his conflict with **Sarlkar**. Main story written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Frank Cirocco** and inked by **Chris Warner**, back-up feature written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **Chris Warner** and inked by **William Portacio**. From the Epic line of comics. Direct Sales only. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #2 — The saga of the woman mercenary **Boronwë** takes a deadly turn and her rivalry with one of the most powerful members of **the Sisterhood** explodes when **Dandelis**, the Princess of Swords, strikes! Created and written by **Christy Marx**, penciled, inked and colored by **Mike Vosburg**. From the Epic line of comics. Direct Sales only. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

Titles shipping **December 18**, on sale **January 8**.

INCREDIBLE HULK #306 — **The Hulk's** friend in the alien dimension, **Xeron the Star-Slayer**, returns! And he is shocked to discover that the intelligent emerald giant he once knew has turned into a surly beast! Instead of words, **Xeron** must now use treachery to force **the Hulk** to help him slay **the Hulk's** old nemesis, **Klaatu, the Accursed**! "Call Me . . . Ishmael!" written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Sal Buscema** and inked by **Gerry Talaoc**. 65¢

AVENGERS #254 — This is it — the Final Chapter! **The Vision** has seized control of the world! He believes that what he's done is right! But the **East** and **West Coast Avengers** have to prove him wrong! If they cannot, mankind will ultimately perish! "Ultimate Vision!" written by **Roger Stern** and penciled by **Bob Hall**. 65¢

CONAN #169 — Kicking off the **Scarlet Mage** saga! **Conan** discovers a mystic sword — and lands himself in more trouble than even a Cimmerian is ready for! **Conan** must find and free the man who forged the sorcerous blade — but a horde of assassins bars the way! "Tomb of the Scarlet Mage!" written by **Michael Fleisher**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Bob Camp**. 65¢

MARVEL TALES #174 — Reprinting the classic adventure from **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #35 featuring the senses-shattering debut of the malevolent **Molten Man**! "Molten Man Regrets!" written by **Stan Lee** and penciled and inked by **Steve Ditko**. 65¢

X-MEN #192 — For shocks, surprises and all-out action, this story has it all! It starts inside the ranks of **the X-Men** itself when **Rogue**, **Nightcrawler** and **Colossus** clash! In the midst of this, **Kitty** and **Wolverine** return from Japan! And, as if that weren't enough, **Rachel** has a vision of her future and sees what happens when she meets an adult **Kitty Pride**! "Fun and Games!" written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Romita, Jr.** and inked by **Dan Green**. 65¢

ROM #65 — It's **Rom, Forge, the X-Men, the New Defenders, the Avengers** — just about every super hero in the Marvel Universe — in the final, do-or-die battle in the inter-galactic Wraith War. It is a fight **Rom** must win — but in so doing, he knows that his very reason to exist will end! "Doomsday!" written by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Steve Ditko**, inked by **P. Craig Russell**. 65¢

POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #116 — **Power Man** is trapped inside an arctic bunker! **Iron Fist** is stranded outside it! While **Luke** is starving to death, **Danny** is freezing to death! And there's no rescue in sight! If **Luke** can't break out of his delirium, **the Heroes for Hire** will be gone for good! "1985" written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Mark Bright** and inked by **Jerry Acerno**. 65¢

KULL THE CONQUEROR #9 — **Brule the Spear-slayer** has left **Kull's** court! And **Kull**, the warrior-king of Valusia, is bored! He seeks a challenge and finds it in the legend of **the Ancient Warrior**! Too late, he discovers that this is one legend that possesses the power to slay him! "Sword of Gonra!" written by **Alan Zelenetz**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Mel Candido**. 65¢

G.I. JOE #34 — The world's greatest anti-terrorist strike force recruits a new member into its ranks — **Footloose**! But **Footloose's** first mission may be his last because **Tomax** and **Xamot** are in town — and they fight for keeps! "Twin Brothers!" written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Frank Springer** and inked by **Andy Mushynsky**. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

MARVEL AGE #25 — The fact-filled magazine that's small on cost and big on information! Chock full of news, previews and **Hembeck's** page to chase away the blues! Direct sales only. A bargain for only 35¢.

Titles shipping **December 25**, on sale **January 15.**

FANTASTIC FOUR #277 — Two special **FF** adventures under one cover! **Doc Strange** joins **the FF** to battle **Mephisto**! The shocking resurgences of **Franklin's** powers! Plus — the story you thought you'd never see — the return of **Ben Grimm**! **Ben** battles a **Dire Wraith** — in a tale that ties in with the Wraith War in **ROM** #65! "Back from Beyond!" written and penciled by **John Byrne**, inked by **Jerry Ordway**. 65¢

IRON MAN #193 — **Tony Stark** visits **the West Coast Avengers** and hands them **Rhodey's** resignation! But **the West Coast Avengers** want an **Iron Man** — and ask **Tony** to join their ranks! Will **Tony** join — or will **Doctor Demonicus** wipe out **the West Coast Avengers** before he has a chance to decide? "The Choice and the Challenge!" written by **Denny O'Neil**, penciled by **Luke McDonnell** and inked by **Ian Akin** and **Brian Garvey**. 65¢

PETER PARKER #101 — **Spidey** knows the old saying, "You can't fight City Hall!" But fight City Hall he must! For if he doesn't — and worse, if he loses — an old man will die! "Red 9 and Red Tape!" written by **Craig Anderson**, penciled and inked by **Paty Cockrum**. 65¢

THE NEW DEFENDERS #142 — **The New Defenders** are caught in a deadly cross-fire of politics and emotions when anti-mutant hearings confront pro-mutant demonstrations on a Chicago university campus. Plus: more information on the ever-mysterious **Cloud**! "M.O.N.S.T.E.R." written by **Peter B. Gillis** penciled by **Don Perlin** and inked by **Kim DeMulder**. 65¢

STAR WARS #94 — **Han, Luke, Leia, Chewie, Lando, C3PO** and **R2-D2** are up to their ears in **Ewoks** and trouble when war breaks out between **the Ewoks** and **Lahsbees**! "Small Wars!" written by **Jo Duffy** and premiering the work of the new **STAR WARS** penciler, **Cynthia Martin**! Inked by **Tom Palmer**. 65¢

THOR #354 — The **Surtur War** is over — and **Thor** and **the Asgardians** are looking forward to home, rest, and comfort. But when they return to **Asgard** — they are faced with the most shocking surprise imaginable! Can **Asgard** hope to survive? Written, penciled and inked by **Walt Simonson**. 65¢

KITTY AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #6 — The bone-crushing conclusion of the stunning six-part saga! **Ogun**, the immortal samurai, wants **Kitty** back! And **Wolverine** pulls out all stops to save her in "Honor!" written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled and inked by **Al Milgrom**. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

2010 (Limited Series) #1 — The Marvel Comics adaptation of the stunning science-fiction movie based on **Arthur C. Clark's** gripping sequel to **2001: A Space Odyssey**. Written by **J.M. DeMatteis**, pencils by **Barney** and **Hama**, inks by **Tom Palmer**. The first of two parts. Printed on high quality Mando paper. 75¢

SPIDER-MAN INDEX #1 — The first issue in a series of special compilations of everything you've ever wanted to know about the world's most famous wall-crawler! The complete listing of characters, credits, synopses — and more — of **AMAZING FANTASY** #15 and **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #1-29! Plus: all the covers reprinted in color! *And*, as a special bonus feature, the full-size, full-color reprinting of **Steve Ditko's** version of the **A.F.** #15 cover! Packaged by **George Olshevsky**. All-new cover by **John Byrne**. Direct sales only. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

DOCTOR WHO #7 — The adventures of the world's greatest time traveler continue! Written by **John Mills** and **Pat Wagner**, art by **Dave Gibbons**. Direct Sales only. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. $1.50.

TIME SPIRITS #3 — **Cusick the Tuscarora** and **Doot of the Wawenoc** must stop the world from drowning — all because of the machinations of a talking fish and a selfish man! "The Black Sack of King Ogan!" written by **Steve Perry** and penciled and inked by **Tom Yeates**. From the Epic line of comics. Printed on high quality Baxter paper. Direct sales only. $1.50.

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MORE COMING ATTRACTIONS

SAVE HER FOR ME, RACCOON, OR I'LL DROWN THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT IN A FLOOD OF BLOOD!
WAR IN THE KEYSTONE QUADRANT?
WAR MEANS A DISRUPTION IN THE FLOW OF TOYS TO THE LOONIES IN CUCKOO'S NEST, WHOSE HAPPINESS I'M PLEDGED TO PROTECT!
AND THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT...

ROCKET RACCOON: Funny animals were never like this!

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Titles shipping in **January.**

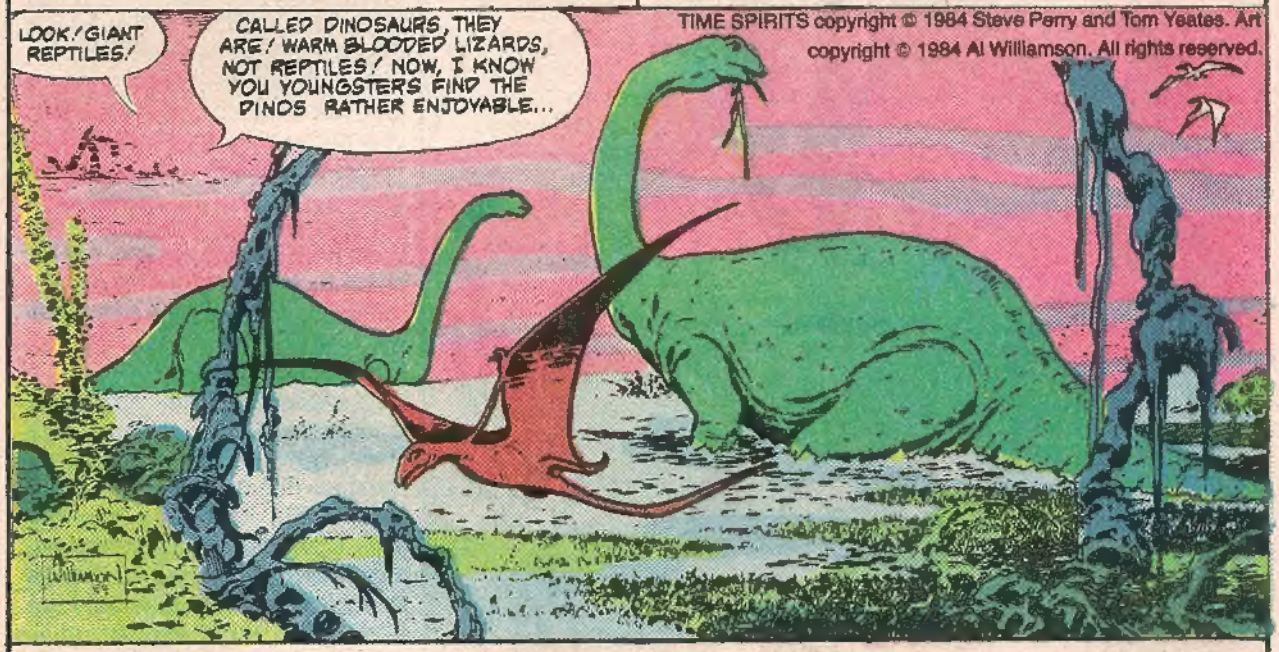
THE THING #23 — "Rememberances" by **Carlin** and **Wilson.**
DAREDEVIL #218 — by **O'Neil** and **S. Buscema.**
NEW MUTANTS #27 — by **Claremont** and **Sienkiewicz.**
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #2 — by **L. Simonson, LaRocque** and **Mooney.**
PLANET TERRY #2 — by **Herman, Kremer** and **D'Agostino.**
PETER PORKER #1
DAZZLER #37
RED SONJA #9 — "Queen of Hearts" by **L. Simonson, Wilshire** and **Nichols.**
CLOAK AND DAGGER #1
CONAN THE KING #28 — "Call of the Wild!" by **Zelenetz, Silvestri** and **Isherwood.**
STARSTRUCK #2 — by **E. Lee** and **Kaluta.**
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #264 — by **DeFalco, Frenz** and **Rubinstein.**
CAPTAIN AMERICA #305 — by **Carlin, Neary** and **Janke.**
INDIANA JONES #29 — by **Grant, Villamonte** and **Bulanadi.**
POWER PACK #10 — by **L. Simonson, Anderson,** and **Wiacek.**
MICRONAUTS #8 — by **Gillis, Jones** and **Patterson.**
ALPHA FLIGHT #22 — by **Byrne** and **Wiacek.**
WALLY THE WIZARD #2 — by **Jacobson, Post** and **D'Agostino.**
EWOKS #1 — by **Manak, Kremer** and **D'Agostino.**
DUNE #2 — by **Macchio** and **Sienkiewicz.**
GROO #3 — by **Aragonés** with **Evanier.**
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #111 — "Mud men of Keshan" by **Fleisher** and **Kwapisz,** cover by **Jusko.**
SWASHBUCKLERS #2 — by **Mantlo** and **Guice.**
MARVEL AGE #26
INCREDIBLE HULK #307 — by **Mantlo, S. Buscema** and **Talaoc.**
AVENGERS #255 — by **Stern** and **J. Buscema.**
CONAN #170 — "Shadow of Death!" by **Fleisher, J. Buscema** and **Camp.**
MARVEL TALES #175
ROM #66 — "Wraith War No More!" by **Mantlo, Ditko** and **Leialoha.**
POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #117 — by **Owsley, Bright** and **Acerno.**
ROYAL ROY #1 — by **Herman, Kremer** and **D'Agostino.**
MUPPET BABIES #1 — by **Kay** and **M. Severin.**
GETALONG GANG #1 — by **Manak, Garzon,** and **Roettcher.**
G.I. JOE #35 — by **Hama** and **Springer.**
SOLOMON KANE #1
X-MEN #193 — Special double-size anniversary issue featuring the 100th appearance of **the new X-Men!** By **Claremont, Romita, Jr.,** and **Green.**
MARVEL FANFARE #20 — "The Clash!" featuring **the Hulk** vs. **the Thing** by **Starlin** and **Milgrom,** and "Elegy" by **Claremont, Ross** and **Wiacek.**
FANTASTIC FOUR #278 — "True Lies" by **Byrne** and **Ordway.**
IRON MAN #194 — by **O'Neil, McDonnell, Akin** and **Garvey.**
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #102 — by **Milgrom.**
THE NEW DEFENDERS #143 — by **Gillis, Perlin** and **DeMulder.**
STAR WARS #95 — by **Duffy, Martin** and **Palmer.**
THOR #355 — by **Simonson.**
ROCKET RACCOON #1 — by **Mantlo, Mignola** and **Gordon.**
2010 #2
SPIDER-MAN INDEX #2 — compiled by **Olshevsky.**
DR. WHO #8 — by **Mills, Wagner** and **Gibbons.**
COYOTE #11 — by **Englehart** and **Truog.**
DREADSTAR #18 — by **Starlin** and **De La Rosa.**
EPIC ILLUSTRATED #29

Titles shipping in **February**.

THE THING #24 — by **Carlin** and **Wilson**.
DAREDEVIL #219 — by **O'Neil** and **S. Buscema**.
NEW MUTANTS #28 — by **Claremont** and **Sienkiewicz**.
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #3 — by **L. Simonson, LaRocque** and **Mooney**.
PLANET TERRY #3 — by **Herman, Kremer** and **D'Agostino**.

FRAGGLE ROCK #2 — by **Kay** and **M. Severin**.
STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE #2 — by **Kay, Post** and **Edelman**.
GARGOYLE #1 — by **DeMatteis** and **Badger**.
ICEMAN #4 — by **DeMatteis, Kupperberg** and **Gustovich**.
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST #4 — by **Nocenti, Perlin** and **DeMulder**.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #265 — **DeFalco, Frenz** and **Rubinstein**.
CAPTAIN AMERICA #306 — by **Carlin, Neary** and **Janke**.
INDIANA JONES #30 — by **Grant, Villamonte** and **Bulanadi**.
POWER PACK #11 — by **L. Simonson, Anderson** and **Wiacek**.
MICRONAUTS #9 — by **Gillis, Jones** and **Patterson**.
ALPHA FLIGHT #23 — by **Byrne** and **Wiacek**.
WALLY THE WIZARD #3 — by **Bolling**.
TOP DOG #2 — by **Herman, Kremer** and **Roettcher**.
HEATHCLIFF #2 — by **Edwards, Kremer** and **Roettcher**.
DR. STRANGE #71 — by **Stern, Smith** and **Austin**.
DUNE #3 — by **Macchio** and **Sienkiewicz**.
GROO #4 — by **Aragonés** with **Evanier**.
SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #112 — "Kamali's Hordes" by **Fleisher** and **Simons**.
ALIEN LEGION #7 — by **Zelenetz, Cirocco** and **Warner**.
SISTERHOOD OF STEEL #3 — by **Marx** and **Vosburg**.
VOID INDIGO #3 — by **Gerber** and **Mayerik**.
MARVEL AGE #27
INCREDIBLE HULK #308 — by **Mantlo, S. Buscema** and **Talaoc**.
AVENGERS #256 — by **Stern** and **J. Buscema**.
CONAN #171 — "Barbarian Deathsong" by **Fleisher, J. Buscema** and **Gil**.
MARVEL TALES #176
X-MEN #194 — by **Claremont, Romita, Jr.**, and **Green**.
ROM #67 — by **Mantlo, Ditko** and **Russell**.
POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #118 — by **Owsley, Bright** and **Acerno**.
KULL THE CONQUEROR #10 — by **Zelenetz** and **J. Buscema**.
G.I. JOE #36 — by **Hama** and **Springer**.
FANTASTIC FOUR #279 — by **Byrne** and **Ordway**.
IRON MAN #195 — by **O'Neil, McDonnell, Akin** and **Garvey**.
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #103 — by **Milgrom**.
THE NEW DEFENDERS #144 — by **Gillis, Perlin** and **DeMulder**.
STAR WARS #96 — by **Duffy, Martin** and **Palmer**.
THOR #356 — by **Simonson**.
TRANSFORMERS #5
ROCKET RACCOON #2 — by **Mantlo, Mignola** and **Gordon**.
SPIDER-MAN INDEX #3 — compiled by **Olshevsky**.
DR. WHO #9 — by **Mills, Wagner** and **Gibbons**.
TIME SPIRITS #4 — by **Perry, Williamson, Bissette, Veitch** and **Yeates**.


LOOK! GIANT REPTILES!
CALLED DINOSAURS, THEY ARE! WARM BLOODED LIZARDS, NOT REPTILES! NOW, I KNOW YOU YOUNGSTERS FIND THE DINOS RATHER ENJOYABLE...

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Hey, what can we say? When you've got dinosaurs, and art by **Al Williamson**, you don't *need* anything else! But that's just the beginning for **TIME SPIRITS** #4!

NEWSWATCH

We interrupt this magazine for these important reports!

ITEM! With his Epic Comics **COYOTE** saga building to a gut-wrenching conclusion in issue #16, a lot of people have been wondering what **Steve Englehart** is gonna do next! Well, wonder no longer! **Steve** is firmly entrenched at Marvel, writing not one, not two, but *three* new series! First off, there are a pair of Limited Series that everyone's been clamoring to see! How does twelve issues of **THE SILVER SURFER**, by **Steve** and **John Buscema**, sound to you? And that's just for openers! We've also got twelve issues of **THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH**, everyone's favorite mutant / android couple (and with **Vizh** and **Wanda** around, if you think **Magneto**, **the Avengers**, and **the Inhumans** are waiting in the wings, you're right!), by **Steve** and **Richard Howell**, one of the most talented young pencilers to come along in years! But wait — we're not through yet! We've turned **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS**, the hit Limited Series of the summer, into a regular monthly title! **Steve** will be teaming up with **Al Milgrom** and **Joe Sinnott** on that one — and California will never be the same again! A lot of you out there will remember when **Steve** wrote **THE AVENGERS**, **THE DEFENDERS**, **CAPTAIN AMERICA**, and **DR. STRANGE** — so you guys know what to expect. For those of you who aren't familiar with the **Englehart** brand of action, drama, and weirdness — boy, are you in for a treat!

ITEM! Speaking of **John Buscema** (we were, weren't we?) . . . with **Al Milgrom** and **Joe Sinnott** tied up making **THE WEST COAST AVENGERS** as great as they can, we needed to enlist the best to replace them on **THE AVENGERS**. So check out **AVENGERS** #255! Not only is the **Buscema** magic on display, but we've teamed **John** with **Tom Palmer**! It's the first **AVENGERS** story they've done together in over thirteen years — and it's a winner!

ITEM! If you're not following **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST** regularly — run, don't walk to wherever it is you buy your Marvels and grab #115. Not only does it have a nifty **John Byrne** cover, but it premieres the new regular art team of **Mark Bright** and **Jerry Acerno**! They're new, they're energetic, and they're great!

ITEM! It's switcheroo time! **Mark Gruenwald** is taking over **THE THING** as editor with #23, freeing up **Mike Carlin**, the former editor, to write it. And just to show that one good turn deserves another, **Mike** is taking on the editorial chores on **CAPTAIN AMERICA** with #307, and **Mark** is going to write *that!* Geez — and some guys swap baseball cards!

ITEM! If you thought **ALPHA FLIGHT** #12 was a shocker, you're not going to believe #23! Tragedy strikes again for the Canadian super heroes, as another member of the roster loses his or her life. In that issue, you'll also meet a major new villain, **Caliber**, and an **Alpha Flight** member will exhibit new, unknown powers! And all this is just warming up for the second year anniversary double-sized #24!

ITEM! Bid a warm welcome to **Bill Valley** — one of the newest Marvel Bullpenners! Actually, **Bill's** been here for five months, but it's taken us a while to introduce you to him. **Bill** designs all of the ads we use — except those for the Epic Comics series. He brings a lot of experience to the job, having worked for UPI, The New York Daily News, Grey Advertising, Ronzoni Foods, and many other places. **Bill** insists he has the world's largest collection of obscure rock operas — and we're tempted to believe him! He also tells the worst jokes we've ever heard — aside from **Jack Abel's**, of course!

ITEM! We now return you to your regularly scheduled magazine!

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A sample of **Richard Howell's Vision** and **Scarlet Witch** for the upcoming Limited Series!

Behind The Lines

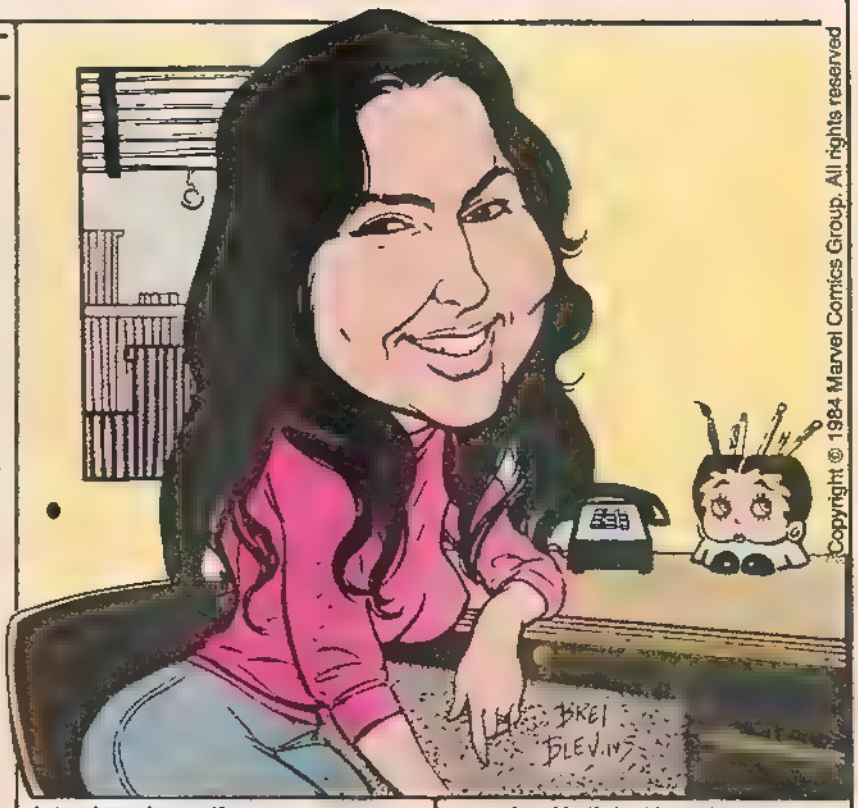
By **Carl Potts**

Pat Blevins — more mysterious than **Howard Mackie**?

Not for long! A few months ago, without any fanfare (no pun intended — ouch!), the name of **Pat Blevins** began popping up on the letters pages in the assistant editor's spot. Time (or lack thereof) has kept her from being properly introduced. We now have five whole minutes with nothing left to do at the end of another busy day here at Marvel so there's no excuse for further delay! **Pat** will be my assistant on **CLOAK & DAGGER, THE NEW DEFENDERS, DOCTOR STRANGE, THE GARGOYLE, HIGH ADVENTURE, THE INCREDIBLE HULK, POWER PACK, THE PUNISHER, ROCKET RACCOON** and **SOLOMON KANE** (penciled by hubby **Bret**!). She'll also assist **Al Milgrom** on **MARVEL FANFARE**.

Georgia native **Jim Massara** was my able-bodied assistant for the past year. When the howling of lonely Southern bulldogs got to be too much for the homesick lad, he decided to move back to where he started from. Actually, **Jim** moved back to marry **Lisa**, his long time sweetheart, and to work for a newspaper — news journalism being his first love. We all wish **Jim** and his new bride a lot of luck!

And now without wasting another minute, I'll get **Pat Blevins** to introduce herself to you . . .



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*Hi! I'm **Patricia Blevins**, Marvel's newest assistant editor! I was born in El Paso, Texas in 1960, and raised in glamorous Las Vegas, Nevada. I grew up loving movies and books but never saw a comic until I was 15, when a strange fellow I shared a class with called **Bret Blevins** introduced me to the adventures of a certain rampaging green behemoth known as **the Hulk**! It was the beginning of a mutal fascination and in 1981 I married him (**Bret**, not **the Hulk**!). Now **Bret** works for Marvel as an artist and here I am, helping edit such great Marvel titles as the above-mentioned **INCREDIBLE HULK, DR. STRANGE, THE NEW DEFENDERS**, and **POWER PACK**! I find the world of comics fascinating and complex, filled with interesting people and ideas. I intend to give my best to my new job, and do everything in my power to help make the comics you read as entertaining as possible!*

P.S. Hi Mom!

MARVEL TOP TEN

This month, we're listing the top ten best-selling Direct Sales titles for July 1984. Normally, we present a list of the top ten overall best-sellers which includes newsstand and subscription sales as well as Direct Sales. To clarify further, this list includes titles that are available through all distribution channels as well as those sold exclusively through Direct Sales. We'd thought you'd be interested in the differences between this list and regular Top Ten listings.

1 — **SECRET WARS #7**
2 — **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE #1**
3 — **X-MEN #187**
4 — **NEW MUTANTS #21**
5 — **ALPHA FLIGHT #16**
6 — **WEST COAST AVENGERS #3**
7 — **SPIDER-MAN #258**
8 — **FANTASTIC FOUR #272**
9 — **FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #18**
10 — **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #96**

It's no secret that **SECRET WARS** has been on the top of all the lists of best-selling comics this year. The first issue of **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE** scored high right off the bat. Mutants, by the way, are featured in every one of the top five titles. What does it mean? **WEST COAST AVENGERS** was also a big hit, which is why you'll be seeing them in their own regular title soon! **Spidey** and **the F.F.** starred in four of the top ten titles — who do they think they are? Mutants?

THE SONG OF

There once was a wand'ring minstrel who sang songs about the amazing incompetence of the one called Groo.
Everyone enjoyed the minstrel's merry tunes...
Everyone with but one exception...
YOU HAVE MOCKED THE GOOD NAME OF GROO!
FROM NOW ON, YOU SING SOPRANO!
Groo! Groo! Let me be! Stay your sword and hear my plea!

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by **Sholly Fisch**

It is night. The barbarian makes no sound as he creeps through the forest towards his foes. Suddenly, he is upon them! The forest erupts in a flurry of violence as the barbarian slashes and hacks his way through fifty men, doing what he does best!

Then the forest is silent once more. His enemies are dead. The barbarian is alone, left to thoughts of glory and cheese dip.

Cheese dip?

No, this isn't **CONAN**. It's **Sergio Aragonès' GROO THE WANDERER**, soon to be the first newsstand-distributed title from Marvel's Epic Comics line.

GROO revolves around the misadventures of a deadly but imbecilic barbarian. He can wipe out armies, but they are usually on his side. He can slay dragons, but they usually fall on the princess.

The series is written and drawn by **Sergio Aragonés**, assisted by his "interpreter" / "interlocutor" / "scholaist" **Mark Evanier**. ("I have no idea what I do on the book," **Mark** says.) Although **Sergio's** is the guiding hand on **GROO**, the two collaborate on plots for the book. Then, once **Sergio** has completed a story, **Mark** converts it into "intelligible speech," adding bits of verbal humor and a new stanza or two to **the Song of Groo**:

If you wind up in the crunch
And some dragon thinks you're lunch
Or a vulture's got his evil eye on you
Do not scream and do not cry
Heed these words and notify
The great champion of champions named **Groo**.
If some tribe has started flog-gin'
Or they'd like to shrink your noggin
Or some evil witch demands to be your wife
Don't plan some Japanese trip
Call the gent who savors cheese dip
And the odds are even he will save your life.

Sergio is probably best known for his one-panel cartoons drawn in the margins of **MAD** magazine. But while he is a master of individual gag cartoons, he still has "thought [in terms of] stories all my life." He created **Groo** in 1977, inspired by **Tarzan** and stories about barbarians. "I always wanted to do a humorous barbarian," he recalls. But when he approached comic book publishers about the project, he was told that it could not be published unless he was willing to relinquish the copyrights on his characters and stories.

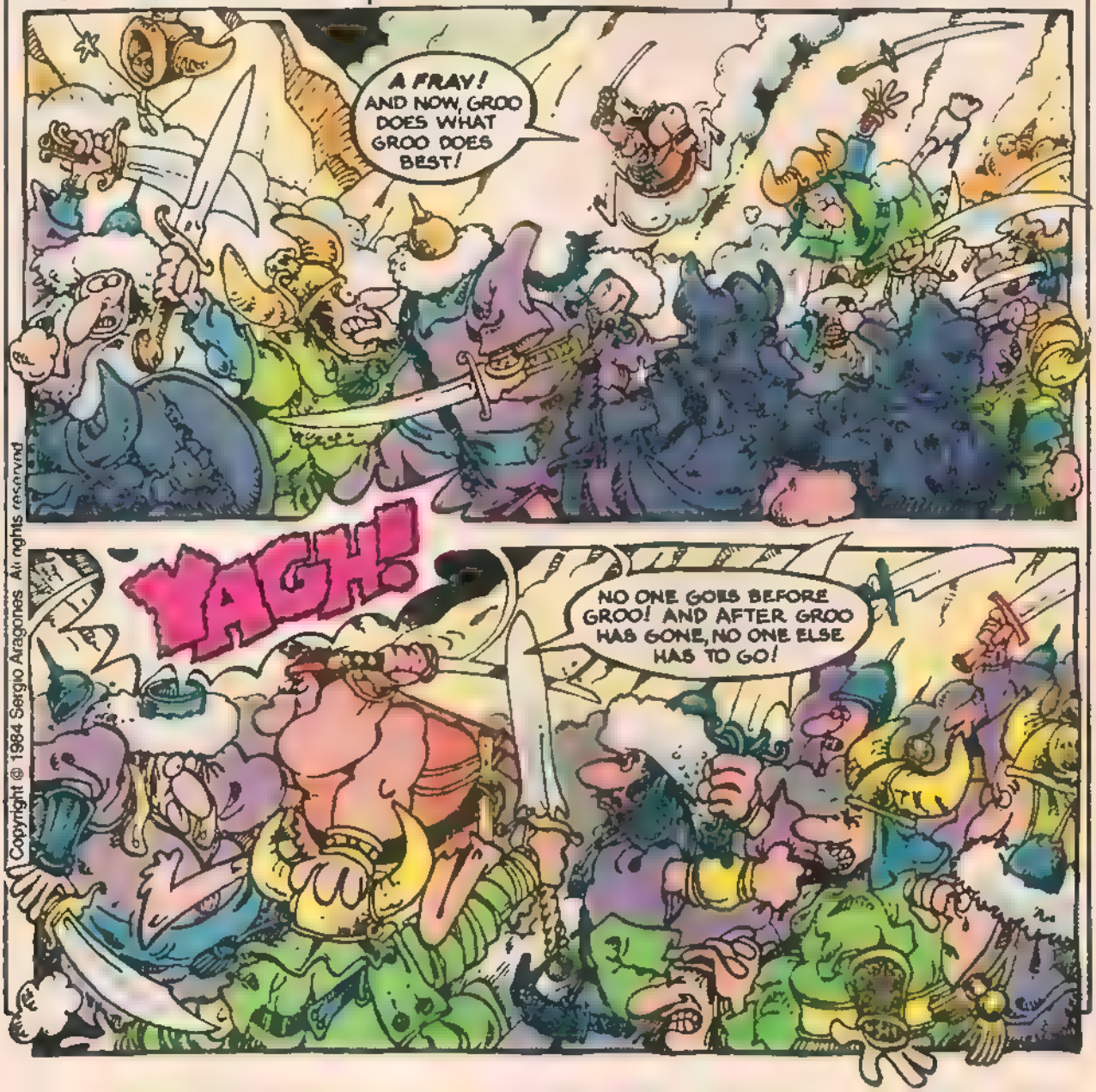
And so, apart from an appearance in a catalogue which **Sergio** illustrated, **Groo** remained unpublished until 1982, when he appeared in a four-page backup story in Eclipse Comics' **DESTROYER DUCK #1**. From there, **Groo** moved to Pacific Comics, where he starred in eight issues of his own comic book.

But Pacific, like most small comic book publishers, distributed their books exclusively through the direct sales market — through comic book specialty shops and the like. And herein lay **Sergio** and **Mark's** problem.

Sergio was appearing on numerous television programs, ranging from children's shows to Spanish interview programs to NBC's **Real People**, talking about **GROO** and his other projects. "**Sergio** is one of the most popular cartoonists in the world. He's recognized on the street," **Mark** explains. "He had people constantly asking him about **GROO** and where they could get it." **Sergio** and **Mark** began to realize that they needed more than the direct sales distribution Pacific provided. They needed newsstand distribution as well.

And so, they approached Marvel. Marvel's relatively new Epic Comics line now allowed **Sergio** and **Mark** to take advantage of Marvel's larger system of distribution while retaining ownership of their characters and stories. **Archie Goodwin**, editor of the line, leaped at the chance. "I always loved **GROO**," he remembers, "and **Jim Shooter** was always nudging **Sergio** to do something for Marvel, so this seemed perfect."

Sergio and **Mark**, too, are pleased with the arrangement. "Marvel is always a professional company. They are a pleasure to


A FRAY! AND NOW, GROO DOES WHAT GROO DOES BEST!
YAGH!
NO ONE GOES BEFORE GROO! AND AFTER GROO HAS GONE, NO ONE ELSE HAS TO GO!
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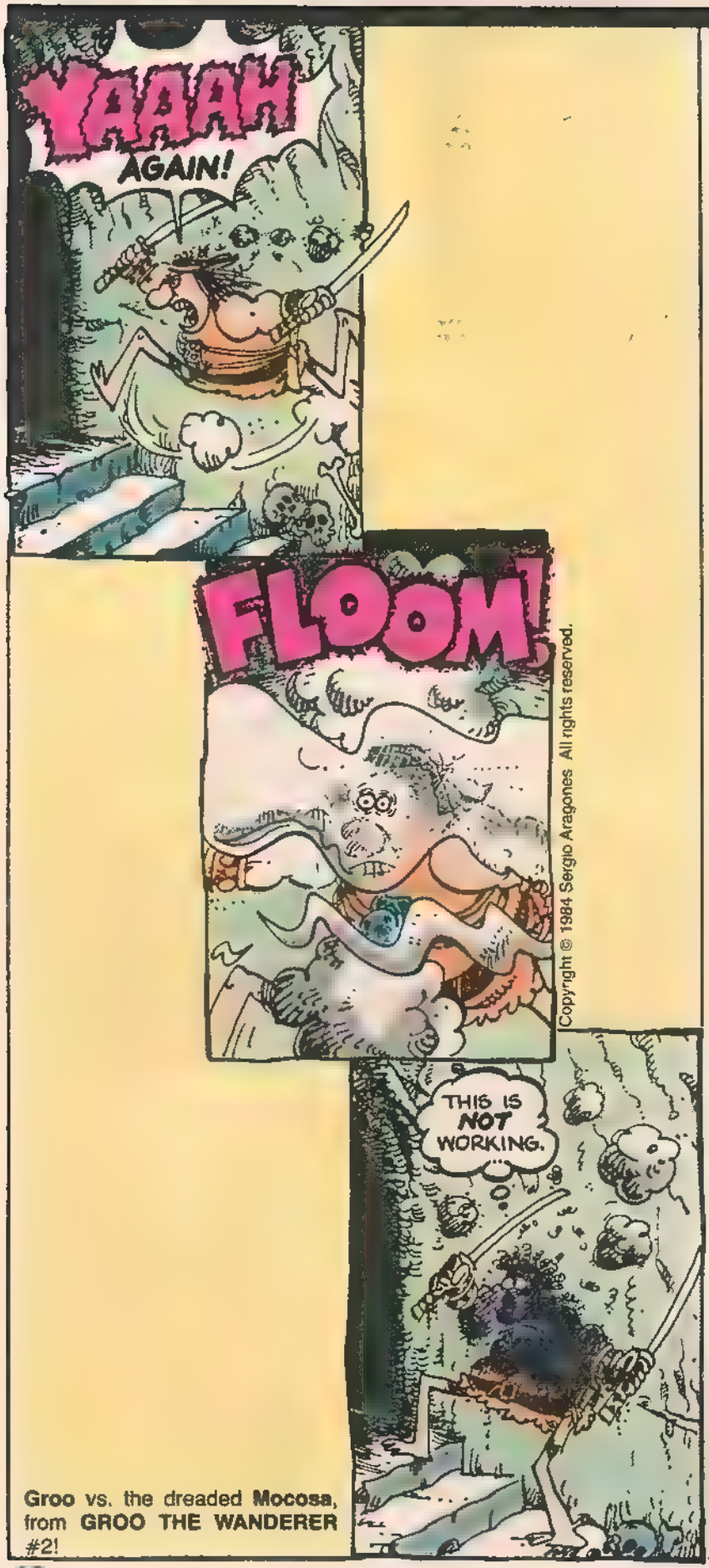

Groo vs. the dreaded **Mocosa**, from **GROO THE WANDERER** #2!

work for," says **Sergio**.

Marvel's **GROO** series will be very similar to Pacific's. "**GROO's** rough to tamper with," **Archie** notes.

Longtime readers will, however, notice the absence of two of **GROO's** major supporting characters. Neither the wise, old **Sage** nor the object of **Groo's** unrequited love, the beautiful barbarian chieftess **Chakaal**, will appear in the first few issues. "We figure that anyone who's been around **Groo** for two or three issues deserves a rest," **Mark** jokes. **Sergio** adds that the first issue or two will showcase **Groo** alone to introduce him to new readers while maintaining the continuity with which older readers are familiar. When will these characters return? "We'll be watching the letters page," **Sergio** says. "Whatever the readers decide."

Readers will find **Groo's** double-crossing "friend" **Taranto** in issue #1, though. And, among **Sergio's** usual cast of thousands, they will also find a new character, **the Minstrel**.

Issue #1, "The Song of Groo," features **the Minstrel** singing about some of **Groo's** many misadventures. Readers will learn about the time **Groo** tried to provide meat for a village and nearly killed himself, and discover how he even managed to bungle a suicide mission. By issue #2, **the Minstrel** is "persuaded" to sing **Groo's** praises instead, but this, too, seems to cause trouble for **the Wanderer**. In a surprising switch for **GROO**, the story *starts* with a funeral and soon has **Groo** headed for one-on-one combat with the dreaded **Mocosa**, the terrifying dragon of the hills.

GROO will be published monthly and sold both through newsstands and comic book specialty shops. Printed on Mando paper, it will sell for 75¢ and feature (in Editor **Archie Goodwin's** words) "twenty-two pages of stories. fun, laughs, and cheese dip."

"[Associate Editor] **Jo Duffy** and I are both big **GROO** fans," **Archie** says, "and we're delighted to have the book, it only so that we can read it before everyone else."

THE NEW WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™

by **Dwight Jon Zimmerman**

It began as the brainchild of Marvel Editor-in-Chief **Jim Shooter** and has quickly become the most talked about new series since **SECRET WARS** — weeks before the first issue hits the stands! What sort of comic could spark such a Bullpen-burying torrent of letters? Only the debut of a new comic book series that combines the efforts of some of Marvel's most exciting talents with one of its most famous super heroes! The result is a whole new world of stunning monthly adventures about everyone's favorite wall-crawler in **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN!**

As if that weren't enough of a blockbuster, the first issue kicks off with the story that Spidophiles everywhere have been demanding to read — the final confrontation between **Spidey** and his new costume! **Louise Simonson**, who has already gained an enthusiastic following with her scripting on **POWER PACK** and **STARRIORS**, continues for the first three issues of **WEB**, the chronicling of **Spider-Man** that she began in **TEAM-UP**. Then, with the fourth issue, **Danny Fingeroth**, the long-time **Spider-Man** editor himself, takes over the writing helm! In addition, penciler **Greg LaRocque** carries over to the new series the pulse-quickening visuals that were his hallmark on **TEAM-UP**. Riding herd over all is the new **Spider-Man** editor, **Jim Owsley**, who confesses that he feels like he's in the ultimate catbird seat.

"I feel honored and nervous," **Jim** said. "**Spider-Man** is *the* character around here, so to be the new guy on the editorial block, and to be entrusted with this line of titles is very flattering. At the same time, it's an awesome responsibility. I hope I don't fall on my face and make everybody laugh at me."

There is little chance of that, for there are many exciting plans in the works, not just for **WEB**, but for all the **Spider-Man** comics! The final battle between **Spidey** and his costume promises to be only the first in a long line of events and surprises in **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** alone. "I'm introducing some new villains," **Louise** said. "They are called **the Vulturions**. They're some people who have managed to steal and duplicate **the Vulture's** costume. And they wind up giving **Spidey** a lot of problems!" **Louise** also mentioned that her stories begin to explore **J. Jonah Jameson's** activities, now that he's turned the operations of the Daily Bugle over to **Robbie Robertson**. "It starts out as a secret project," **Louise** said. "**JJJ** is mad at **Robbie** because he refuses to continue **Jonah's** anti-**Spidey** campaign in the Bugle. So **JJJ** starts work on reviving **NOW** magazine as a slick format to continue his attacks on **Spider-Man**.

It is with the fourth issue that things will really take off. But what happens then must remain a mystery because as regular **WEB** scripter **Danny Fingeroth** said, "The story is a mystery, so I can't tell too much for fear of spoiling the suspense. But I will say that **Doc Ock** returns. And he is the pawn of this mystery villain who will be making **Spidey's** life very miserable."

The concept of transforming **MARVEL TEAM-UP** into **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** began months ago when Editor-in-Chief **Jim Shooter** explained his new idea to then-**Spider-Man**-editor **Danny Fingeroth**. "I was resistant to it at first," **Danny** said. "I was worried about how we could keep a distinct identity for the new title." But the more he got involved with the project, the more possibilities he saw, and the more excited he became. So much so, in fact, that when **Danny** left his editing position to again become a freelance writer, everyone agreed that he should take over regular scripting chores on **WEB** after **Louise's** stint was over.

In the overall plan of keeping the **Spider-Man** comics different from each other, **WEB** will primarily focus on **Peter's** professional life. "Obviously, all the people in all the **Spider-Man** comics will be used to varying degrees in each title," **Jim Owsley** said. "But **WEB** will tend to concentrate on **Peter's** association with **J. Jonah Jameson's** revived magazine, **NOW**. **Peter** will also be taking some photography lessons. He has to, because **JJJ** wants him to become a world-class photographer in keeping with this up-scale slick magazine. And as a result of his work on the magazine, **Peter** will be traveling more. We are thinking of taking **Spider-Man** to London. Marvel UK, the British publisher of Marvel Comics, is dying to have **Spidey** in London. They produce their own original stories about **Spidey**. But all those British stories are set in New York. By us publishing stories of **Spider-Man** in London, Marvel UK can then do their own adventures of **Spider-Man** in the

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Spider-Man has serious wardrobe problems in **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1!**

UK. For the same reason our French publishers would like to see **Spidey** in Paris. So with **Peter** becoming the world-class photographer that we hope happens, all this — and adventures in other exotic locations, too — will be possible."

The task of ensuring that the identities and continuities of **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** and **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** stay distinct and consistent might appear formidable. But **Jim** had a quick response to that concern. "**Danny Fingeroth**, my predecessor, created an excellent way of solving this potential problem," **Jim** said. "It's the **Spider Writers' Conference**. It's a regular once-a-month meeting where the editor and all the **Spider-Man** writers get together for lunch and discuss their plans. Mostly we eat. But once we're done eating, and have eaten everything in sight, we start tossing out ideas and informing each other about what we're doing. It's a great system."

It was during one of these conferences that the details of the first issue of **WEB** were worked out. Everyone agreed that the first issue of **WEB** should have the final battle between **Spidey** and his new suit. But as **Danny** who was the then **Spider-Man** editor then recalled, *how* it would be done was another matter.

"It turned into a big controversy," **Danny** said, "because **Al Milgrom**, the writer of **PETER PARKER**, **Tom DeFalco**, the writer of **AMAZING**, **Louise** from **TEAM-UP** and I all had different ideas on how it should be done."

It quickly emerged that their real difficulty lay not in how the confrontation between **Spidey** and his costume should happen, but in selecting which one of all the great ideas that were being tossed out during the conference should be used. Fortunately, the choice was made, and **Louise** had the springboards she needed to complete the landmark first issue of **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN**.

When asked about her writing stint on **Spider-Man**, **Louise** said enthusiastically, "It was a lot of fun! **Spider-Man** was the first character I read who made me understand what super heroes are all about. And I think that **Spider-Man** is so special that it is virtually impossible to write him badly!"

Danny added, "Everyone in this industry, I've noticed, gets passionately involved with whatever project he's working on. And I'm the same way. When I became the editor of the **Spider-Man** comics, I found myself quickly becoming obsessed with **Spider-Man**. Quite often, when I was reading a newspaper story about some crisis, I'd catch myself wondering, 'Gee, how would **Spider-Man** have handled this?' Not too long ago I was sitting in a park, working on a **WEB** plot. And things were really cooking! I was writing a fight scene between **Spidey** and these truck hi-jackers in a dark warehouse — and I was really getting into the fight! I couldn't wait for **Greg LaRocque** to draw it! As you can guess, I'm really happy to be writing **WEB**, and I'm also happy that **Greg** is the artist. He did great stuff on **TEAM-UP** and he's really thrown himself into **WEB** and produced art that really shines!"

"The teams on all the **Spider-Man** comics are all fantastic," **Jim Owsley** said. "They all work well together. And they all understand each others' needs. One of the reasons for that is that all three writers of the **Spider-Man** comics used to be editors of the **Spider-Man** titles as well! And here I am, the new editor, trying to tell them what to do! But there are no problems with anyone. We all live in the New York City area, so phone calls and face-to-face communication are real easy. This is really important because **Spider-Man's** world has to remain consistent. And communication between all the people writing his adventures ensures that happening."

Along with the advent of **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN**, another important change has been made. The schedule of the **Spider-Man** comics was restructured so that now a new **Spider-Man** comic comes out every week beginning in **December!** So hang out your Christmas stockings over the fireplace early because if you've been good, you just might find in that stocking a Christmas copy of **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #1!**

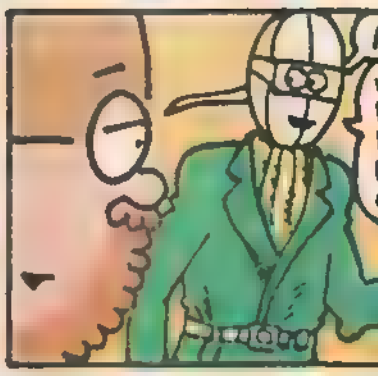
HELLO AGAIN, EVERYONE. THIS IS FRED HEMBECK, AND MY GUEST TODAY IS THE FATHER OF MARVEL COMICS HIMSELF, STAN LEE! WELCOME, STAN!
THANKS, TRUE BELIEVER! IT'S A GAS TO BE HERE.
MY STAFF TELLS ME YOU HAVE QUITE A SURPRISE FOR ME?..
I SURE DO...
HEMBECK'S PAGE

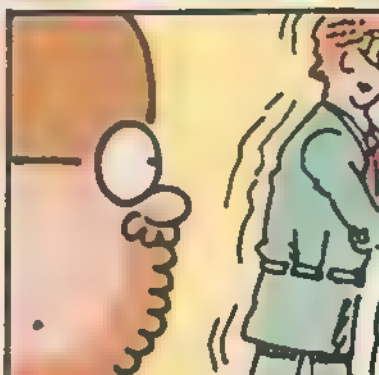
...SO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION.
WHA?..WHY, YOU'RE NOT STAN LEE AT ALL--

--YOU'RE MYSTIQUE, SHAPE CHANGING LEADER OF THE NEW BROTHERHOOD OF EVIL MUTANTS!
THINK SO?

SAY, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO MYSTIQUE AGAIN?..
I BEG YOUR PARDON?..

UH, MAYBE YOU COULD TELL US WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO IN RECENT YEARS. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT USED AS OFTEN AS MANY OF THE OTHER VILLAINS FROM THE EARLY YEARS OF MARVEL.
THAT'S TRUE, FRED, BUT YOU DO SEE ME FAR MORE OFTEN THAN YOU MIGHT REALIZE. YOU SEE, I FILL IN FOR SUPPORTING CHARACTERS FOR A NOMINAL FEE. THIS YEAR ALONE, I'VE POPPED UP AS FLASH THOMPSON, PETER GYRICH, WONG, EVEN SIF--BOY, WAS THOR SURPRISED...





GASP! IT-IT'S JIM SHOOTER, MARVEL'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF!

GUESS AGAIN.
OHNO! OH NO. IT'S--
...ONE OF THOSE LOVABLE SHORTY'S. AW, I SHOULDA KNOWN.
NO.
NO?
NOPE. REMEMBER AMAZING SPIDER-MAN NUMBER ONE?
THE CHAMELEON? YOU'RE NOT A SHAPE CHANGER!
MAYBE NOT, BUT HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A BETTER QUICK CHANGE ARTIST?
ANYTHING ELSE?
WELL, MOST FOLKS DON'T KNOW ABOUT MY DEVIOUS, EVIL SENSE OF HUMOR.
HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU.
HELLO? CHRIS CLAREMONT? SHOOTER HERE.
OHHI, JIM. I WAS JUST--
FROM NOW ON I WANT WOLVERINE TO WEAR POLKA DOTS.
WHA? ARE YOU CRA--
THAT IS ALL.
WELL?...
SHELLY GREENE WOULD BE PROUD...
AND JUST WAIT'LL YOU SEE MY BOY GEORGE!...
YOUR 'KARMA CHAMELEON'? OH! SAY, YOU ARE FUNNY, AREN'T YOU.
TIL NEXT TIME, FOLKS.
...AND I DO A GREAT RICH LITTLE...

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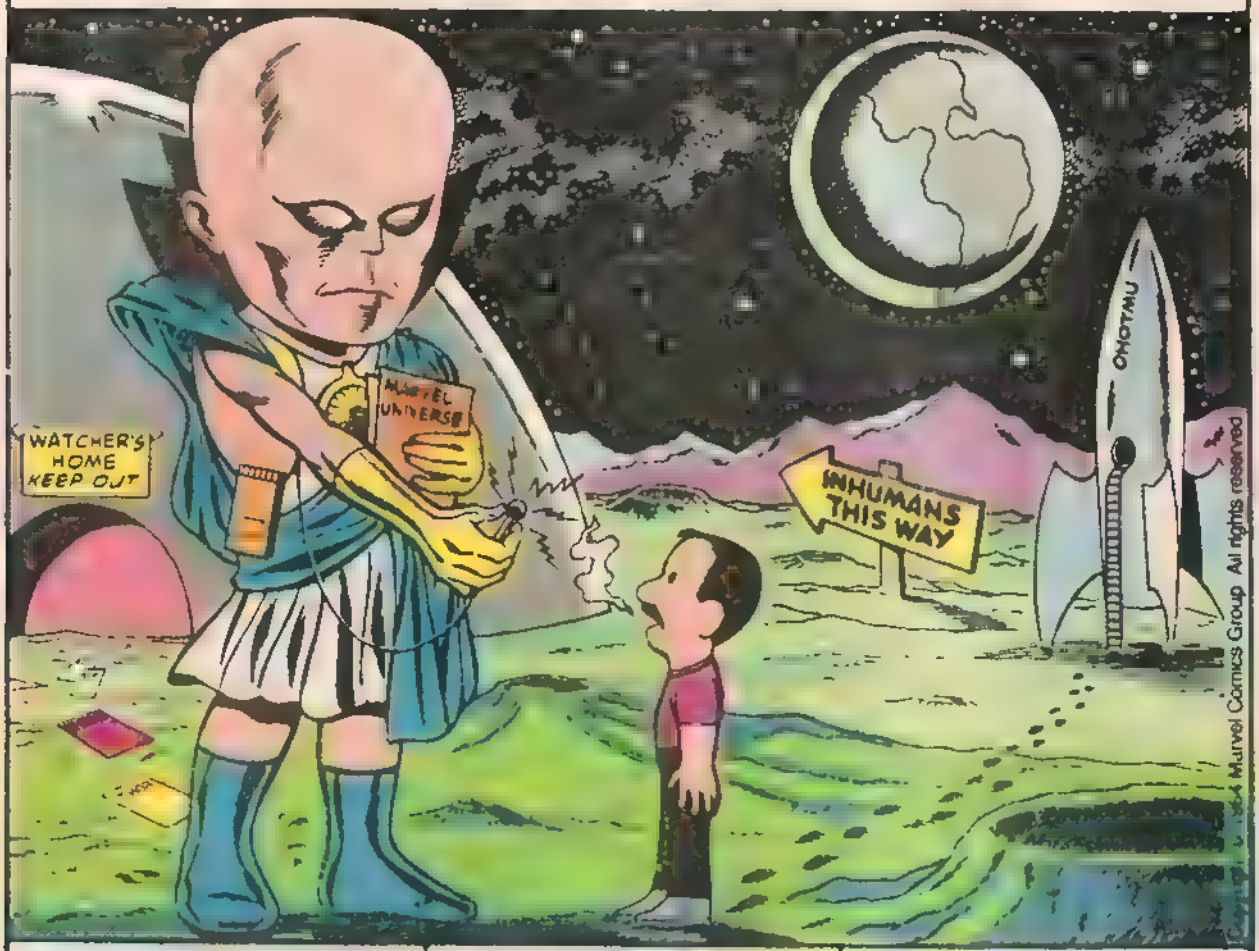
MARVEL AGE INTERVIEW SPECIAL



The Marvel Universe does not stand still. It is in a constant state of flux as new heroes and villains are born, old ones die, long-time characters change, events take place to change the status quo and new information is discovered about the world and its denizens. In the fall of 1982, Marvel published the first of a fifteen-volume encyclopedia of data, drawings, and diagrams of the many wonders of its universe. Entitled ***THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE****, the trend-setting series was the brainchild of* **Jim Shooter**, *editor in chief of Marvel Comics and the Prime Caretaker of the Marvel Universe.* **Jim** *passed his brainchild along to editor* **Mark Gruenwald**, *one of the Marvel Universe's most knowledgeable historians, and* **Mark** *devised the specific format by which all of the facts of the Marvel Universe, its significant figures, places, peoples, and things could be catalogued for the interested reader.*

A year has passed since the issuing of the final volume in the original series, and unknown to most of the free world, **Mark Gruenwald** *has been laboring in secret since that time, working on a new edition of* **THE HANDBOOK** *to incorporate the vast amount of new information about the Marvel Universe.* **MARVEL AGE** *has sent* **Uatu**, *this sector of the universe's own appointed* **Watcher** *to the Manhattan office of* **Mark Gruenwald** *to get* **THE HANDBOOK's** *harried designer, co-writer, and packager to talk about the new edition.*

UATU: *So,* **Mark Gruenwald** *of Earth, I would like to begin this interview by saying that I thoroughly enjoyed the first edition of* **THE HANDBOOK** *and was quite surprised that a non-omniscient being like yourself could assemble so much material in such a short time.*

MARK: Thank you, **Uatu**. I'm a great fan of yours, too. Sorry to hear about your book being canceled.

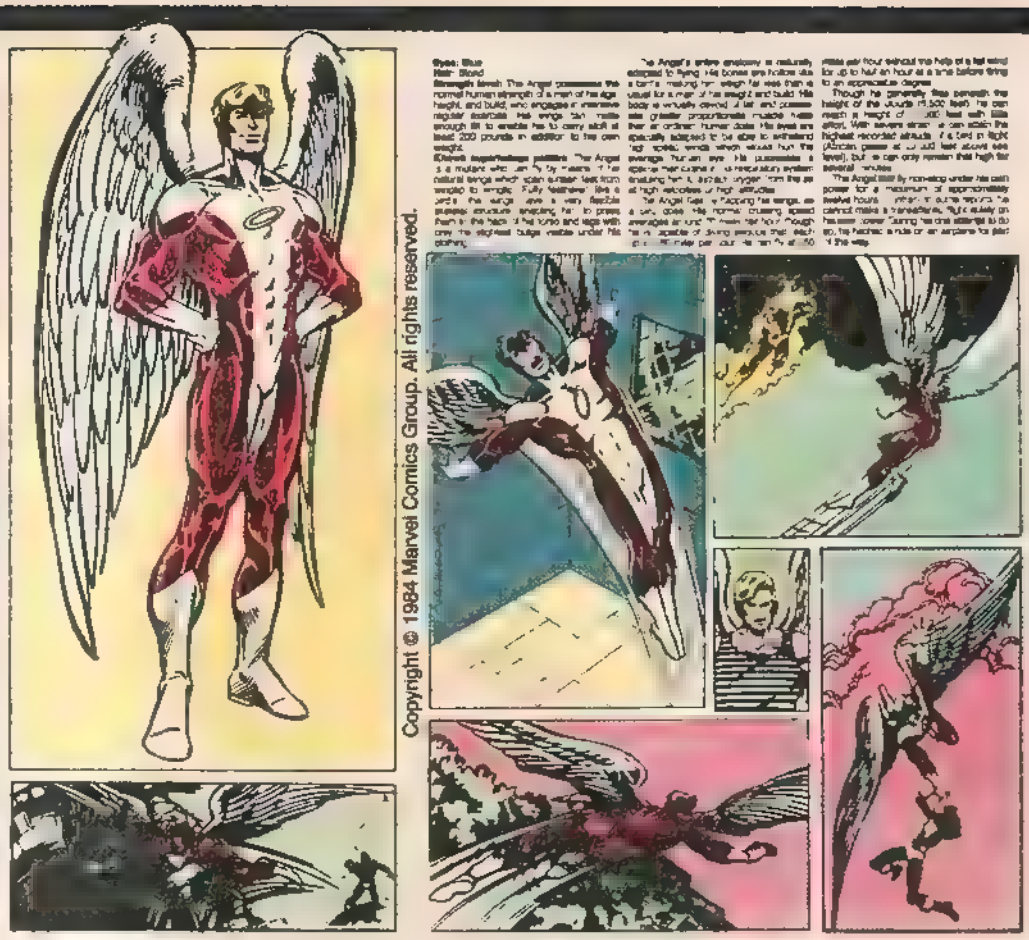
UATU: *My what?*

MARK: The book you narrated, **WHAT IF**. Marvel has ceased to publish it.

UATU: *I was wondering why your writers had not been up to see me in a while. Oh well, as fascinating as those glimpses into tangential universes were, I find they are mere shadowplays compared to the fascinating history of the reality in which we collectively dwell. Which brings me back to* **THE HANDBOOK.** *Considering your humanly limited resources, you managed to create a fair overview of the major phenomena and personages of the universe as far as is known to men of your world. Not that there weren't trifling errors here and there — I*

MARK: Don't I know it. Boy, did we get letters every time a factual error or a typo slipped into print.

UATU: *Would you like to tell us*



Compare **the Angel's** deluxe entry with his entry in the original **HANDBOOK**, on the next page.

about some of your more flagrant mistakes?

MARK: Not really.

UATU: *Then I believe I will. I was watching as you made them, after all*

MARK: And you didn't see fit to let me know?

UATU: *Of course not. A* ***Watcher*** *is bound by his vow of non-interference. Now, about those mistakes . . . some of my favorites were, in no particular order, the typographical error identifying* ***Attuma's*** *strength level as capable of lifting 40,000 tons instead of 40 . . . the diagram of* ***the Guardians of the Galaxy's*** *starship* ***Captain America*** *wrongly identified as* ***the Freedom's Lady*** *. . . the erroneous account of the goddess* ***Sif's*** *hair change . . . the misrepresentation of the powers of* ***Cyclops, the Human Torch,*** *and* ***the Wasp*** *. . and my personal favorite, the description of* ***the Wizard*** *as a "stage musician" instead of "stage magician" — oh, I could go on and on.*

MARK: Hey, **Watcher,** give me a break, huh? The first series was assembled at a breakneck pace — there were tons of comics to research — the typesetting and proofreading went on until the wee hours of the night almost every weekend — and I had a full load of regular books to edit. You've got to admit that if you compare what we got right to what we got wrong, it's a ratio of ten to one.

UATU: *I will admit that.*

MARK: Good. Anyway,, correcting some of our flubs and fubars is one of the reasons for us doing a new edition of the series.

UATU: *Could you tell us some of the other reasons,* ***Mark Gruenwald****?*

MARK: Glad to. The main reason is there have been so many things happening in the Marvel Universe lately that the original **HANDBOOK** is woefully outdated. That's not our fault — it's just the nature of trying to assemble all known information. The moment you put it down, more things happen, and your data has become outdated. Why, since the time of the original series. people who got major entries have died — folks like **Guardian, the Red Skull, Abomination**, and **Solarr** — some have retired, like **Hellcat** and **Devil-Slayer,** and the existence of a whole slew of new super-beings has come to light — folks like **the Beyonder, Beta Ray Bill, the Master,** the new **Goliath,** the new **Spider-Woman,** the new **Warlock** — !

UATU: *I see.*

MARK: So we have a lot of expanding to do in the update department. The other thing we are doing is revamping the format of **THE HANDBOOK** in order to accomodate more information. Since we were trying to be as all-inclusive as possible in the first run, we really couldn't afford to give any entry more than a page or so. Consequently, entries with tons of pertinent information had to be set in type so small you needed a microscope to read it, and the accompanying illustration sometimes looked like a com-

memorative stamp.

UATU: *How are you getting around that this time?*

MARK: The basic format for the new series, instead of being fifteen 32-page volumes for a total of 480 pages as the original was, will be twelve 64 page volumes for a total of 768 pages! These 288 extra pages will give us the room to let entries take whatever length they require, instead of being locked into one page. This time all of the type will be at the same readable size, and the illustrations accompanying the entries will be bigger and far more numerous than in the first series. Besides a nearly full-page establishing shot of each character, we're also including multiple "action shots" illustrating each of the person's various powers and abilities. For a person like **Doctor Strange**, for instance, it will take three whole pages to depict all of the things he and his mystic paraphernalia can do. The hardware, weapons, and paraphernalia which were the subject of the last book of the original **HANDBOOK** will be artfully incorporated into the entry of the person who uses them.

UATU: *Hmm. 64 pages per issue. And you expect to publish this on a monthly basis?*

MARK: You bet. We've had plenty of practice.

UATU: *Besides the expanded page count, the standardized type size, and the greater proportion of pictures to text, are there any other alterations in format from the original* ***HANDBOOK****?*

MARK: Well, we have added two or three new Data Categories. We now list the issue number where a person's origin account first appeared. We also have a separate category for "Strength Level," which, judging from our mail, was the single item of most interest to **THE HANDBOOK's** readers. Now, that particular statistic is going to be very easy to look up and compare. Besides those, we've added a separate category for the limitations of a person's power, if it is not already specified in the description of their powers. Oh yes, and to underscore the fact that our description of powers is based on observations to date, we've change the category "Powers" to "Known superhuman powers." That way, if a character develops his powers or acquires new ones, no one can blame us for not listing them — they weren't known at the time.

UATU: *Pretty cagey,* ***Mark Gruenwald****.*

MARK: I try.

UATU: *How do you decide what gets an entry and what doesn't?*

MARK: I've tried to include every major person, place, or thing that is currently active or important in the known Marvel Universe. By "major," I mean something that has appeared at least twice. And by "currently active," I mean one of its appearances must have been within the last two years. Simple, huh?

UATU: *I trust this time you won't forget to include* ***Clea****?*

MARK: Ulp. No, I won't forget.

UATU: *How about your catalog of Alien Races?*

MARK: They'll be in there, too, updated to include all newly discovered races. Hey, we couldn't call it a handbook to the Marvel *Universe*, if all we included were beings of Earth, could we?

UATU: *I should say not. How about dead and inactive beings?*

MARK: We will have a special section that includes them.

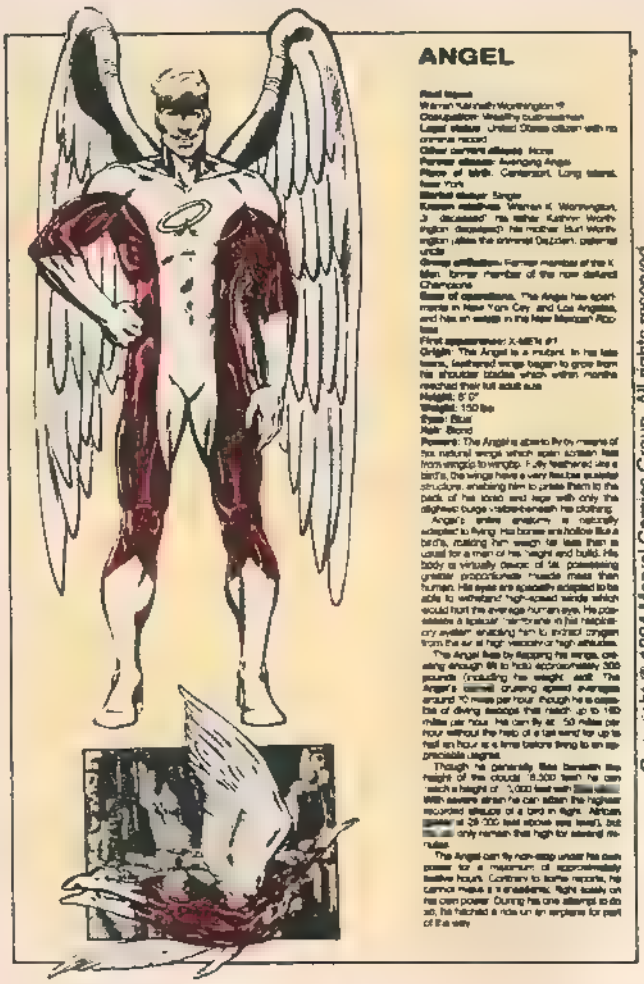
them.

UATU: *Now tell us about the humans you have assisting you in this vast undertaking.*

MARK: Glad to. First there's **Peter Sanderson**. He's co-writing and co-researching the revised book with me —

UATU: *Just the two of you? In the first series you had a whole staff of writers and researchers.*

MARK: Well, now that the basic core of data has been assembled, it's far easier to coordinate things just between two people — **Peter** and me. **Peter** is one of a small handful of people whose knowledge of the length and breadth of



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A sampling of the enormous population of the Marvel Universe courtesy of **John Byrne** and **Joe Rubinstein.**

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the Marvel Universe surpasses my own. His keen, methodical mind makes him ideal for a project like this. He was my main man on the first series and I couldn't do the Deluxe Edition without him. Then there's **Josef Rubinstein**, one of the most talented young inker / embellishers in the business, who has the task of rendering in ink all of the new figure illustrations for the Deluxe Edition just as he did for the first edition. **Joe** already holds the distinction of having rendered more Marvel characters than any other inker in history — and after he gets done with the new series, no one will ever be able to touch his record. Then there's **Eliot Brown** who designs and draws all of the technical illustrations and maps that have appeared in **THE HANDBOOK**. I don't believe there is another person in the comics industry today or ever who could do what he does. **Eliot's** contribution to the series gives a whole new dimension to it, don't you think?

UATU: *I suppose. Still, there are a lot more exciting things to watch than to see him spend eighteen hours rendering a single diagram. I cannot deny the effectiveness of the end product, however.*

MARK: No list of contributors to **THE HANDBOOK** would be complete without mentioning **Brenda Mings**, our meticulous typesetter who has to set and reset all 768 furshluggin' pages of the Deluxe Edition — an astounding task, and **Barry Shapiro**, who is pasting up every one of the aforementioned pages. And then there's my mysterious assistant editor **Howard Mackie** who does whatever it is that my ex-assistant **Mike Carlin** did on the first run.

UATU: Howard Mackie? *Yes. I remember watching him once, but I can't quite recall his face.*

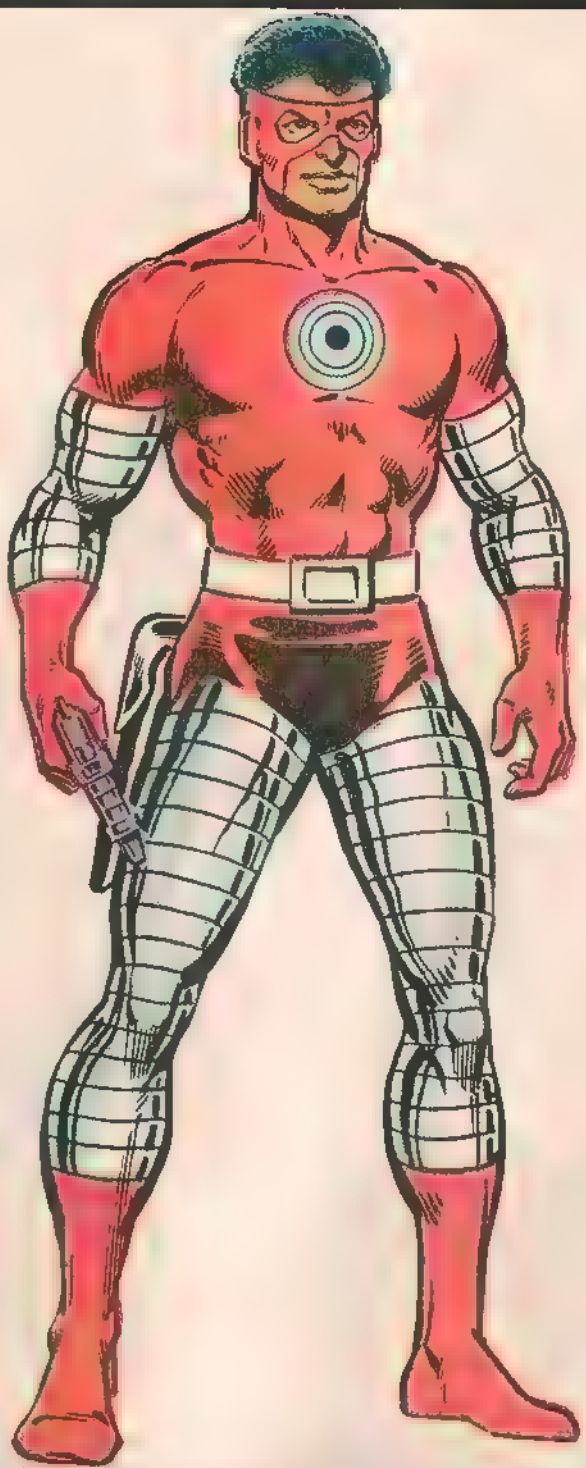
MARK: That's okay. No one can. And last but certainly not least, there's **Jim Shooter**, who is editor and overseer on the entire project. He's going to read every page before they go to press to ensure their accuracy.

UATU: *How splendid. Perhaps you will do better than 90% accuracy this time.*

MARK: We sure intend to.

UATU: *I think you've told us what we need to know. One final question: what do you think of the various attempts that have been made by chroniclers of* other *universes to adapt the format of* ***THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE*** *for categorizing their data?*

MARK: Well, they say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but I don't believe it. While everyone is copying what we've already done, we've already gone out and found how to improve on it. Be on the lookout for **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE — DELUXE EDITION**, on sale early in '85 and see for yourself.



Chemiatro, by **Don Drake** and **Joe Rubinstein**, one of the all-new entries in the **DELUXE HANDBOOK**. Check out page 25 for more on **Don Drake**.

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THE MARVEL AGE — 1966 (PART VII)

by **Warren Reece**

Last chapter, we revisited the incomparable **Inhumans**, and left off somewhere in the pages of **FANTASTIC FOUR** #48. Let's pick up the Magical History Tour at that point. Here, at last, is our long-awaited examination of the legendary, mind-dazzling intros of the gargantuan **Galactus**, and the star-spanning **Silver Surfer**. This most momentous sequence in the Marvel Age has been colloquially dubbed "The Galactus Trilogy" by many, I like to refer to it as, "The Marvel Version Of 'The Man Who Came To Dinner.' " Return to yesteryear, as **Galactus** comes for that most delectible of dinners: Earth, with everything on it!

The crisis started on the return trip from the Great Refuge, as **the Thing** observed *two* suns in the sky. Naturally, the other members of **the F.F.**, with him in the plane, thought he was kidding, or a bit nuts, especially when one of the alleged suns started getting bigger! However, before long, they knew it was no joke, as flames seemed to fill the sky.

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After a brief encounter with a New York mob, who blamed **the Torch** for the flames, **the Thing** and **the Torch** returned to the Baxter Building, where a harried **Reed** was seeking answers. Soon, the sky was filled with harmless rocks, which replaced the terrifying flames. Nevertheless, it was perfectly clear that something was dreadfully amiss. Ultimately, **the F.F.** discovered that **the Watcher** was, uncharacteristically, causing these phenomena.

Within the Baxter Building, headquarters of **the FF.**, **the Watcher** prepared to reveal the incredible. Normally, he had a "hands off" policy of non-interference in cosmic affairs, of which **Sue Richards** correctly and apprehensively reminded him. He was breaking the **Watcher** code, right? Why? He replied:

"True; but the danger is far too great this time! **The Silver Surfer** is on the way! He is the advance scout for **Galactus**; **Galactus**, who drains entire planets of their elements, and leaves them dry, unable to support life!

"I could not stand by and see this happen to Earth! That is why I am trying to conceal your planet from **the Silver Surfer**; for, of all who inhabit the known universe, only **Galactus** has power enough to match my own!"

WHEW!!! Readers *knew* something unbelievably heavy was about to happen, if the nearly omnipotent and omniscient **Watcher** was nervous enough to camouflage our world, first as a sun, and then as a cluster of barren rocks. This was cheating on his oath of non-interference! However, the readers were also learning that **the Watcher** had a special love of, and admiration for, humanity.

Well, down flew **the Silver Surfer**, who landed atop the Baxter Building. With a flare from his hand, he signalled **Galactus**. Next, **the Thing** belted this animated Oscar statue off the roof of **F.F.** Headquarters, but to no avail. Down came **Galactus'** spherical ship. Out came this giant with a G on his cosmic toga! That ended **F.F. #48!**

Well, #49 opened up with an exhausted and apprehensive **F.F.** looking on helplessly at **the Watcher** and **Galactus**, who were arguing over the fate of Earth.

Well, **the F.F.** tried to stop **Galactus** from assembling his *elemental converter* (which was practically assembling itself!), a device designed to envelop a world with catalytic force, and then, through a feedback effect, convert nearly everything into pure energy for **Galactus** to consume; matter into energy. This was Einsteinian physics, folks; very heavy stuff being presented in an easily comprehensible, visually exciting format. It's difficult to overstress the importance of this; matter to energy; energy to matter; perhaps the very secret of the universe itself, incorporated into comics. Here were beings of *biblical proportions*, in a passion play of pop culture.

In a 1969 interview with **Greg Theakston**, penciller **Jack Kirby** recalled: "Well, when originating **Galactus**, it suddenly struck me —how close to being a truly powerful, Biblical type of figure he was; so, I gave him a herald, a cosmic being whose awesome powers would be dwarfed by the great **Galactus** . . . a kind of fallen angel I called **the Silver Surfer**." It should be added that when the pencilled pages came back to **Stan Lee**, his discovery of **the Surfer** came as quite a surprise!

Okay! **The F.F.** couldn't seem to do anything about **Galactus**. **Galactus** regarded them as though they were insects, beneath his concern, and he dealt with them as such. He stifled **the Thing** with a capsule of sneezing powder, condensed **the Torch's** flame into soot using eye-beams, and rattled the team with a monstrous little thrall of mayhem called **the Punisher**.

Meanwhile, two events were happening to turn the tide. First, **Alicia Masters**, **the Thing's** lady love, re-awakened the humanity and conscience of the seemingly emotionless **Silver Surfer**, by showing him kindness, and emphasizing the right of every living creature to survive, just as surely as **the Surfer** had emphasized his master's survival needs at the expense of everyone else's. **The Surfer** decided to aid us.

Now, at this point, it should be noted that the dramatic portrayal of **the Surfer** as an emotionless being differed from later characterization. As **Norrin Radd**, of the planet **Zenn-La**, his 1968 origin tale portrayed him as a deeply emotional being, fraught with social conscience.

Having covered that first crucial point, let's get on to the second. While **Alicia** awakened **the Surfer's** conscience and finer emotions with her impassioned words, **the Watcher** guided **the Torch** on a transdimensional journey to **Galactus'** space-station home base. **The Torch** weaved through bands of *un-life*. This substance was, apparently, a ribbon-like form of *anti-matter*. Anti-matter, in theoretical physics and chemistry, is a sort of "negative matter" which cancels out any "positive matter" it contacts, and vice-versa. Maintaining telepathic contact with **the Watcher**, **the Torch** finally bypassed the last of these deadly obstacles, in his quest for an innocuous-looking little device to be found somewhere within **Galactus'** gigantic home base; a device to stagger **Galactus** . . . and the minds of all Marvelites!

At that point, **F.F.** #49 ended, and at this point, so will we. However, just as was the wait for **F.F.** #49's readers, you too only have one month to go before experiencing the drama and wonder of the conclusion of "The Galactus Trilogy," or, at least, as much of the essence of it that we can recapture within these humble pages.

Anyway, whether it's revisiting yesteryear, or catching it for the first time, I hope you'll be here to enjoy it with us.

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THE NEW TALENT DEPARTMENT

by **Kurt Busiek**

This month, **the New Talent Department** showcases the inking of **Don Drake**. He's something of a fast-rising talent, since he's only been at Marvel two weeks, and already he's done work for **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE DELUXE EDITION**, and is regularly inking backgrounds in **THE MICRONAUTS**! Since he's in the office every day as part of the apprentice program, it was easy to catch **Don** and ask him how he began his career. This is what he said:

"I'm originally from Carpentersville, a Chicago suburb — and I was getting a lot of lessons from people that live in the area, critiques from people like **Joe Staton**, **John Byrne**, and **Bruce Patterson** — plus, I got a lot of help at conventions. I spent a year seriously working on inking samples, and getting critiques from **Joe Rubinstein** — y'know, him spending four or five days with me at conventions, telling me what I was doing wrong. Then I'd spend the next couple of months before the next convention cleaning my samples up, improving them. Just recently, in July, **Jim Shooter** saw my stuff, and said, 'Contact **John Romita** for the apprentice program.' "

Not everyone is familiar with Marvel's apprentice program, so I asked **Don** to describe it. "Basically, as **John** would say, it's for people who are close to being good enough to do books, but need help, maybe on backgrounds or figures — cleaning up the line, so to speak. We do a lot of Marvel's art corrections — if they need anything redrawn, we do it. Right now our big corrections are on **SECRET WARS**. So we do a lot of clean-up to make everything perfect." **John Romita** works closely with the apprentices, helping them do the art corrections, and teaching them how to improve their own artwork. "If I correct something wrong," **Don** says, "he tells me what's wrong with it, and how to fix it. And if I still can't quite get the hang of it, he'll show me, so I know exactly what to do. All his help's invaluable. Just watching him do the stuff helps."

Two weeks ago, **Don** moved from Chicago to New York, and joined the apprentice program. Aside from doing art corrections, he's penciled illustrations of **Chemistro, the Lava Men**, and **A.I.M.** for **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE**. "I penciled them roughly, and **John** helped me get the anatomy glitches out of them. Then I tightened up the pencils, and **Joe Rubinstein's** inking them right now." In addition, he's inking the backgrounds on **THE MICRONAUTS** for editor **Ralph Macchio**. "**Kelly Jones** pencils it, and **Bruce Patterson** inks the main figures. I'm doing all the backgrounds. **Kelly's** doing it loose — everything's drawn in about the same line weight — so I can experiment with it. I can add a lot of dimension to it. I'm having fun."

The inking samples **Don** showed us were two pages from the **MARVEL TRY-OUT BOOK**, and a few pages he'd re-created from **Walt Simonson's** rough layouts, doing finished pencils in addition to inks. We've only got room to show a couple of pages here.

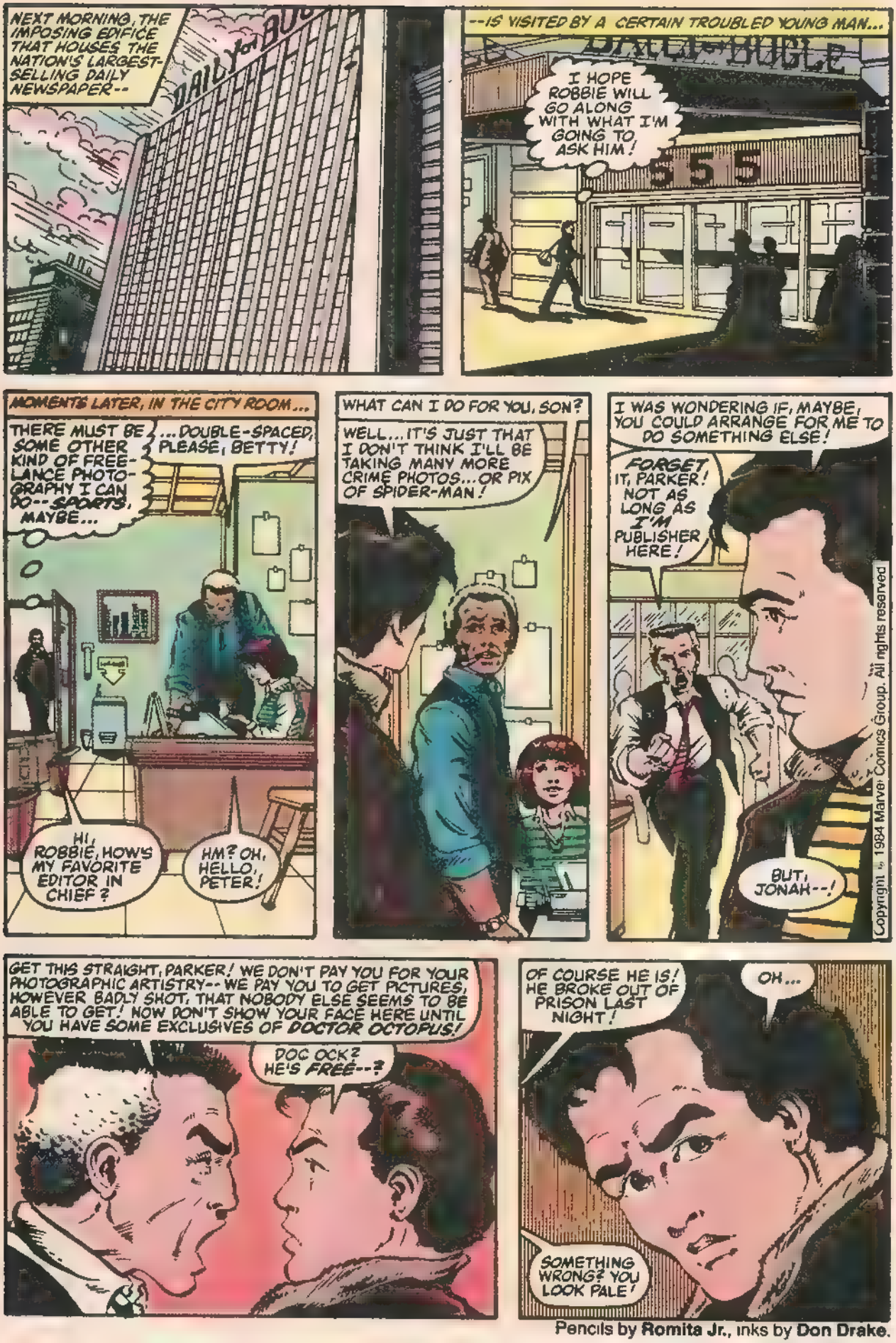
We went to ace inker **Jack Abel**, and asked him to critique the pages. **Jack** thought they looked quite good, but had a few suggestions: "This dry-brush effect (on panel six of the **TRY-OUT** page). You've got to be very careful with that, because when a dry-brush effect reproduces, it could turn into a solid black if you don't do it properly. I have a feeling this is going to close up to solid black. Which is okay, but you'll lose the kind of texture that **Jameson's** hair has.

"I don't like to use Zip-a-tone on very small figures (as in the second panel). Even with the heavy dot pattern you have there, it's also going to close up. With the heavy shadow around them, allowing the colorist to enhance it would have been sufficient. As it is, color is not going to help it. You won't even be able to distinguish those people in the shadow."

Jack also thought that panel three, where **Betty Brant's** black hair is against **Robbie Robertson's** black vest, could have been delineated better. "In life, when you hold something black against something else black, you can still see where one thing ends and the other begins." **Jack** went on to show **Don**, with sketches, how he could have established a light source that would have thrown a highlight across the top of **Betty's** hair, making clear the border between her hair and **Robbie's** vest. "If you'd done that, if you'd delineated it sufficiently, you wouldn't have needed to leave that white line around her nose and mouth. That's kind of an amateurish trick. Aside from that, generally, these pages look pretty good."

To round things out, we dropped in on **Ralph Macchio**, editor of **THE MICRONAUTS**. He was very happy with the background inking **Don's** done on that series: "**Don's** background work is really looking very nice. He adds a lot of depth and dimension to everything he's done so far. Even panels which could have been flat, he gives a lot of depth to — almost as if he could feel *inside* the panel. Also, he uses zip-a-tone very well. It's minimal, but it's important, wherever he puts it. I think he's going to be quite a good artist in the future."

Afterwards, I asked **Don** about that last comment. What did he see himself doing in the future? "In the near future, I still want to work with **John Romita**, because his training is invaluable. He teaches people a lot, and just working with him gives me a lot of experience. In the future I'd like to ink my own book. Eventually maybe pencil and ink a series." Judging from his samples, his approach to learning, and the reaction of the editors, **Don** is well on the way to fulfilling his ambitions, and we at **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** are looking forward to seeing much more of his work.


NEXT MORNING, THE IMPOSING EDIFICE THAT HOUSES THE NATION'S LARGEST-SELLING DAILY NEWSPAPER--
DAILY BUGLE
--IS VISITED BY A CERTAIN TROUBLED YOUNG MAN...
I HOPE ROBBIE WILL GO ALONG WITH WHAT I'M GOING TO ASK HIM!
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CITY ROOM...
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER KIND OF FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY I CAN DO--SPORTS, MAYBE...
...DOUBLE-SPACED, PLEASE, BETTY!
HI, ROBBIE, HOW'S MY FAVORITE EDITOR IN CHIEF?
HM? OH, HELLO, PETER!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SON?
WELL...IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T THINK I'LL BE TAKING MANY MORE CRIME PHOTOS...OR PIX OF SPIDER-MAN!
I WAS WONDERING IF, MAYBE, YOU COULD ARRANGE FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING ELSE!
FORGET IT, PARKER! NOT AS LONG AS I'M PUBLISHER HERE!
BUT, JONAH--!
Copyright © 1984 Marvel Comics Group. All rights reserved
GET THIS STRAIGHT, PARKER! WE DON'T PAY YOU FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTISTRY--WE PAY YOU TO GET PICTURES, HOWEVER BADLY SHOT, THAT NOBODY ELSE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO GET! NOW DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE HERE UNTIL YOU HAVE SOME EXCLUSIVES OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS!
DOC OCK? HE'S FREE--?
OF COURSE HE IS! HE BROKE OUT OF PRISON LAST NIGHT!
OH...
SOMETHING WRONG? YOU LOOK PALE!

Pencils by **Romita Jr.**, inks by **Don Drake.**

Layouts by Simonson, finishes by Don Drake.
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A few examples of **Don Drake's** background inking, from the pages of **THE MICRONAUTS**.

How To Submit Your Samples . . .

For anyone interested in submitting work to us, we recommend producing samples for **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK**, available in comics shops or by mail. If you cannot obtain the **TRY-OUT** book, here is a brief recap of our requirements.

Send photocopies — do not send original art. Each submission must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with proper return postage. Otherwise, your samples will be thrown away.

WRITERS — Submit brief plot synopses only. Do not send scripts, short stories, or long outlines. Submissions must be typed. A plot synopsis should be no longer than two typed pages. Send two synopses at most.

PENCILERS — Submit two to four pages of panel-to-panel continuity. Do *not* send pin-ups, abstract art, landscapes, etc. Drawings should be in pencil on kid finish Bristol paper. Your pages should be one-and-one-half times as large as the pages in the printed comic. Draw any characters you want, but show a variety of settings and situations. Demonstrate that you can draw super heroes, ordinary people, action and quiet scenes.

INKERS — This is a tough one. First, you will have to get pencil drawings to ink, either your own or someone else's. Its perfectly all right to trace the pencil drawings. Again, your work should be on kid finish Bristol paper, and should be panel-to-panel continuity. Use india ink. Before inking the pencil art, you must photocopy it. Submit both the inked work and the photocopies of the original pencil art. Two to four pages is fine.

LETTERERS — Submit samples of lettering approximately one-and-one-half times larger than the lettering printed in the comics. Include samples of sound effects, titles, and display lettering. Letter your samples on India ink on kid finish Bristol paper.

COLORISTS — Without the **TRY-OUT** book, there is really no easy way to submit coloring samples, because our coloring process is complicated and very specialized. If you really want to try, though, buy a copy of a Marvel pocket book that's printed in black and white. These are on sale at most stores that carry paperbacks. Photocopy half a dozen or so pages on *bond paper*. Color these bond paper photocopies with colored inks, dyes, watercolors, or whatever tools you have available. Professionals use Dr. Martin's water-color dyes which may not be available where you are, but that's not important; if your samples are really outstanding, we'll try you out on regular pages and loan you a Dr. Martin's kit. Remember, our regular color printing process is very restrictive. A lot of modeling and color blending will only show us that you aren't familiar with the limits of comic book printing. In general, the simpler your coloring samples are, the better. A brief discussion of comic book coloring appears in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #13, available at most Direct Sales Outlets.

All submisions should be addressed to:

Submission Editor
Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South
New York City, NY 10016

Bullpen Bulletins

Hi. I'm Archie Goodwin, editor of Marvel's EPIC COMICS line, appearing through the courtesy of my close personal friend (and Boss) Jim Shooter, who's always looking for an excuse to get out of doing one of these Bullpen Bulletins himself!

You may wonder why an editor in charge of such maturely-oriented, expensively-printed, creator-owned, direct sales-only titles as VOID INDIGO, TIME SPIRITS, and SISTERHOOD OF STEEL is risking his life like this defending a giant bowl of cheese dip. Well, it's just my sophisticated, symbolic way of telling you that one of the biggest defenders of cheese dip *ever* is about to get his own Epic Comic. I'm talking

SERGIO ARAGONÉS'
GROO
THE WANDERER!

If you frequent comics or specialty shops, you may have already encountered this swift-sworded, slow-witted, always hilarious barbarian. But if you've *never* seen GROO, we're about to change all that, because from now on, you'll be able to find him *everywhere!* Sergio's creation (That's right, he's the same Sergio Aragonés famous for his work in MAD and about a jillion different [illegible] sale right now . . . It's the beginning of an ENTIRE NEW ERA for Epic Comics!

Uh . . . Meantime, anybody care for some leftover cheese dip?

THE HYPE BOX

G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #1 — Now's your chance to plug into the G.I. Joe saga and learn everything about G.I. Joe! This special Yearbook contains the complete reprint of the legendary G.I. JOE #1, highlights from every other issue to bring you up to date with the current story, selected dossiers of your favorite Joes, and an article about G.I. Joe on television! Look for the incredible wrap-around cover by M[illegible] GOLDEN! This is the book you've been waiting for, so reserve your copy now!

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #100 — A special double-size anniversary issue! SEE Kingpin's ultimate revenge! SEE what finally happens between the Black Cat and Spider-Man! SEE the furious battle between Spider-Man and Spot! SEE . . . the Black Costume! Written and penciled by AL MILGROM! Inked by GEOF ISHERWOOD!

MARVEL FANFARE #19 — Featuring a [illegible] story reveals new insights about the *true* nature of Cloak and Dagger's relationship! And each part was drawn by different artists: LEONARDI and TERRY AUSTIN, and KERRY GAMMILL and GEORGE FREEMAN! And it was all written by BILL MANTLO! On sale *now* at your local comic [illegible]

[illegible] ARAGONÉS'S GROO THE [illegible]ERER #1 — Madcap MADman SERGIO ARAGONÉS brings Groo to EPIC COMICS, and the fun is just beginning! Follow Groo as he wanders through an age of wizards and monsters, looking for an honest job as a mercenary. Unfortunately, Groo does what Groo does best, and that means everything is bound to go wrong! Join Groo, Sergio, and mendicant MARK EVANIER in some of the funniest adventures ever inspired by cheese dip! Cheese dip!? (Hey, just take our word for it — don't miss the new monthly adventures of GROO, on sale at your local comics shop and *newsstands everywhere!*)

SUPERSPECIAL #36: DUNE — Arrakis, a world of deserts and voracious sandworms, where water is the most precious commodity, would seem to be the last place anyone would want to go. Why, then, does it hold the key to the future of galactic civilization? Frank Herbert's science fiction classic has become the movie event of the decade, and this is the official movie adaptation! Written by RALPH MACCHIO! Illustrated by BILL SIENKIEWICZ!

CHECK LIST

☐ **THE THING #21**
☐ **DAREDEVIL #[illegible]**
☐ **NEW MUTANTS #[illegible]** — Featuring [illegible]
☐ **RED SONJA #7**
☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET** [illegible] ultimate chapter of the war that shook the Marvel Universe!
☐ **CONAN THE KING #27**
☐ **G.I. JOE YEARBOOK #1** — Because [illegible] demanded it! See Hype Box!
[illegible]
☐ **[illegible]HT #20**
☐ **TRANSFORMERS (Limited Series) #4**
☐ **CONAN THE DE[illegible]ROYER ([illegible] series) #2**
☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #[illegible]**
☐ **AVE[illegible]GERS #[illegible]**
☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #166**
☐ **MARVEL TALES #173** — Reprinting "The Thrill of the Hunt," by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man #34*.

[illegible]
☐ **[illegible] #[illegible]** — [illegible] and writer JIM [illegible] welcome new regular penciler MARK BRIGHT! The action is just beginning!
☐ **G.I. JOE #20** [illegible] start of a new era of [illegible]
[illegible]
☐ **THOR #353**
☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #5**
☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR [illegible]** issue! See H[illegible]
☐ **DR. WHO #[illegible]**

MARVEL MAGAZINES
☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #109**

☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #19** — A *Cloak & Dagger* Special! See Hype Box.
☐ **MARVEL AGE #24**

EPIC COMICS
☐ **CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #4**
☐ **SERGIO ARAGONÉS' GROO THE [illegible]** [illegible] #1 — Those space-faring pirates find excitement and adventure in this new series by BILL MANTLO and BUTCH [illegible]
☐ **COYOTE #19**
☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #28**

ASSORTED GOODIES
☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #36: DUNE** — Danger [illegible] world! The complete [illegible] the hit movie! See Hy[illegible] Box!
☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #37: [illegible]** — The [illegible]ce odyssey continues in this Marvel adaptation of the most eagerly awaited movie sequel of all! Written by J.M. DEMATTEIS. Pencils by LARRY HAMA and JOE BARNEY. Finishes by TOM [illegible]

CAN WE TALK?

Send your letters to **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**, % Marvel Comics Group,
387 Park Avenue South, New York, New York, 10016

Welcome back! You can blame *Robert Thurman* of Sonora, Kentucky for the title to this month's mailbag! We figure *Joan Rivers* herself might see it while browsing through her local comics shop — and then she could have the entire *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE* staff on the "Tonight Show" next time *Johnny's* on vacation!

(Hmmm. Maybe we should title this page "*MARVEL AGE Pipe Dreams*" . . . ?)

Dear **MARVEL AGE**nts,

I've been collecting comics for a little over ten years now, but this is the first time I've written to you. I feel that readers should express their views on how well you guys are doing — and what better place to voice opinions on the Marvel Universe than in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**.

First, though, I'd like to tell you that even though I'm starting my premed studies at Pace University in New York City this fall, I'm also interested in writing and illustration. So I'd like to ask if there are any fine art schools in New York City that you might recommend. With that said, I commend you on the excellent job you did in **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #19, reporting the confusion over the **AVENGERS / JLA** crossover comic. I also enjoyed issue #18's piece on the new Marvel Super Hero Role-Playing Game and I look forward to playing it since I used to play Dungeons and Dragons regularly.

Lately I've noticed a trend where it seems that some of the most outstanding comics are done by individual producers, that is, writer-artists. They seem to have a complete feeling for the comic because it is in their control. They have a proud responsibility which helps them turn out excellent stories. Examples include **Jim Starlin** on **DREADSTAR**, **John Byrne** on **ALPHA FLIGHT**, and **PETER PARKER** by **Al Milgrom**. These are favorites of mine, but I'd also like to see more from **Bob Layton**, the **Romitas**, **David Michelinie**, **Mike Mignola** — whose **Sub-Mariner** story in the latest **MARVEL FANFARE** was great — and **Sal Buscema**, who should also ink his own art.

I'm also happy that **Bill Mantlo** and **Rick Leonardi** have a **CLOAK AND DAGGER** series coming up, reuniting the team that did the Limited Series. Speaking of Limited Series, any chance of **the Silver Surfer**, **The Impossible Man**, **the Starjammers**, **the Taskmaster**, or **the Rangers**?

Finally, **Jim Shooter** and his creative and editorial staff are doing a MARVEL-ous job of producing Marvel Comics, so keep up the good work! Until **Wolverine** turns timid, make Mine Marvel!

Kenny "Rebel" Clarke
Brooklyn, NY 11226

New York's got plenty of art schools to offer, *Kenny*, many of which offer night courses which you could squeeze into your premed schedule — like the School of Visual Arts, where several Marvel madmen got their education. And yes — there is a chance of a *SILVER SURFER Limited Series* . . . check out this issue's *NEWSWATCH* section for a welcome surprise!

Dear **Jim** and **Company**,

I just finished reading the **VOID INDIGO Graphic Novel** by **Steve Gerber** and **Val Mayerik**, and I cannot wait for the series to start! I love the names given to our hero, first **Ath'Agaar**, then **Jhagur** (first name **Mick** — come on!). The art was fantastic, the story superb — in a word the book is going to be superfantabulous!

I think **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** is a great book. We get the inside scoop, interviews, histories, and everything! I started reading with issue #5 with your **Walt Simonson** interview and have awaited each month's info ever since. Speaking of **Simonson** (**Walt**, that is), the current storyline featuring everyone's favorite Thunder God is fantastical. **Thor** has always been my favorite. I've been collecting Marvel Comics for only three years now, but I have amassed all but thirty-five issues of the **THOR** title including **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY**. Not bad, huh?

Well, thanks for letting me chew your ears off (or strain your eyes, in this case!).

Dave D. Spiro
15 Colonial Road
Old Beth Page, NY 11804

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

Just looking over my collection of comics I notice that all of them are about people who have super powers. I think you should produce a comic about a hero who doesn't have super-powers. A series about a reporter could give a substantial plot as he investigates the crimes himself like a detective. How about a comic about a detective like **Magnum, P.I.** or a police officer like **Dirty Harry**? Please think over my suggestions.

Corey Lucas
21 Gainsboro Road
Sherwood Park Alberta
CANADA T8A 2J7

Dear **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE**,

That bothersome little box on everything you print which appears on the newsstands — does it have to be there? I get all my comics from a comics specialty store, so there's no UPC symbol on the covers of the comics that I

buy, but there's still that stupid little box messing up the cover art! Is there any way you could start putting the UPC box on the *back* cover of each mag? If the back cover contained a Marvel house ad, which has been happening lately, then you wouldn't be obscuring someone else's ad. How about it? Can it be done?

Tim Young
2600 J St. SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

'Fraid not! We get letters along these lines all the time, *Tim*, so we'll settle the issue here. Nope, sorry, no way — we hate having the covers marred by that little UPC box, too! But the distribution system which allows comics to be sold in UPC-utilizing outlets requires that it be placed where it is. In the long run, it helps us all by allowing our comics to be sold in many more markets. It's just one of those things we've got to live with — like homework and hay fever!

To the Main Men at Marvel,

I have a question about a certain lovable tentacled terror who goes by the name of **Doctor Octopus**. You see, I recently purchased the Marvel Super Heroes Role Playing Game (the best game ever created), and as I was reading through the game book I noticed that the occupation of **Doc Ock** was dealing in mechanics and robots. This doesn't sound strange. But wait! I'm not done with my story!

I've also recently purchased the **Doctor Octopus** action figure from the **Secret Wars** collection, and I as glanced over his identification card I noticed that he is supposed to be an atomic researcher!

I give up! What is he? A master of robotics and mechanics, or an atomic researcher?

Tony Long
25942 Evergreen
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Both — but an atomic researcher first. He originally invented his famous arms, in fact, to help him manipulate radioactive substances from a safe distance! But over the years, he has modified his tentacles to include, among other things, high efficiency battery packs and individual micro-circuit control modules, We suspect that this expertise has not gone unexploited — and *Ock* has no doubt sold his mechanical innovations for large profits to support his criminal undertakings.

Boy, we hope your question has been answered — 'cause that's about the longest-winded technical answer we've given in the history of *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE*!

Jim Shooter

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Dear Folks,

I am twelve years old and an enthusiastic comic book collector. I have given it some thought, and I think I would someday like to get into the comics business. Drawing is one thing I'm good at, and I can write some cliff hanging plots, too. I would like to know how **Jim Shooter** got into comics and how he worked his way to the top.

I hope someday I can be one of the talented people who work for Marvel Comics. Until then, I'll keep collecting them and dreaming. By the way, do you think you could work on bringing back good old **Ghost Rider**?

Stephen Harshbarger
202 Penn Hill Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681

***Jim Shooter* began in comics when he was not too much older than you, *Stephen*! He was about fourteen when he sent his first submission to DC Comics in the mid-1960's. One of their editors, the late *Mort Weisinger*, was so impressed that he gave *Jim* a crack at writing *Superboy* and others on a regular basis — though not before he asked *Jim* for an additional submission or two, just to make sure that first one wasn't a fluke! After several years of batting out tales for DC, *Jim* left comics for a few years — until he returned to writing in 1974. Shortly thereafter, he became an Associate Editor at Marvel, writing *DAREDEVIL*, *THE AVENGERS*, and other projects while learning how to invent the twenty-five hour day!**

in 1977 he became Editor in Chief — and the rest, as they say, is history!

Dear **Marvel**,

I was delighted when the Epic line of comics came out, but I was disappointed that it didn't feature an adult comic that dealt with the regular Marvel characters. It would be all right if such a thing were a regular feature in **EPIC ILLUSTRATED** or a Limited Series, as long as it was an adult comic. I know many people would love for such a thing to be published, so what are you waiting for? Do it!

Greg Bowers
118 Hickock Circle
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

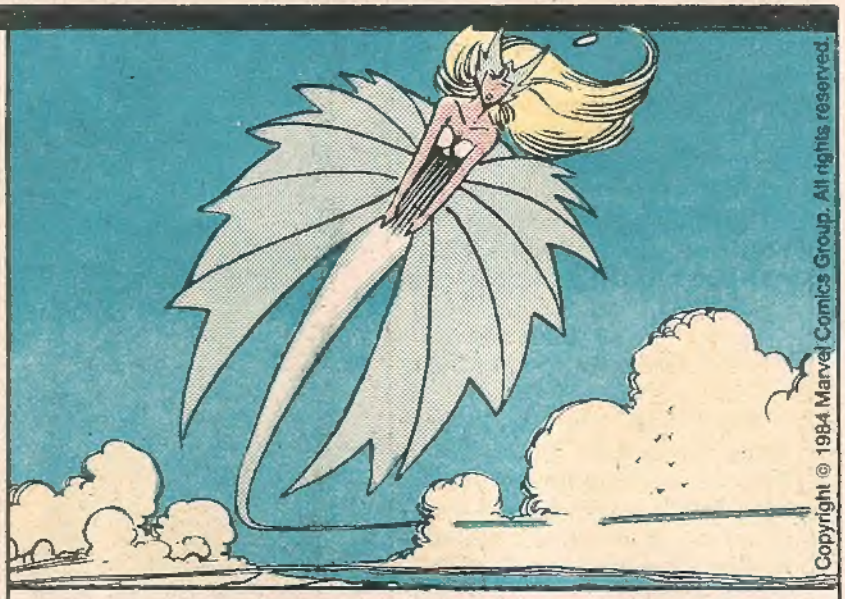
We'll tell ya, *Greg* — the Epic line of comics was conceived to chronicle adventures entirely separate from the Marvel Universe. But reaction to "The Last Galactus Story," currently being serialized in *EPIC ILLUSTRATED*, has been quite something! No doubt you yourself have been thrilling to this rather sophisticated and engaging treatment of that planet-eating Marvel mainstay! So who knows? As far as the Epic line of comics is concerned, the only limits are those of the human imagination!

Hello again,

You know what I haven't seen in years? Those huge comics that came out at one time. I used to buy them at the drug store near my home. Have you stopped making them or are they only available at comics specialty shops? I miss them. They were great to read at night, spread out on the living room floor with a big bag of potato chips and a cold suicide — a suicide being a mix of 7-Up, Dr. Pepper, Pepsi, and Mountain Dew. Have you stopped making them entirely?

Nettie B. Hayden
Rt. 1 Box 357
Pelham, AL 35124

If you're talking about the Marvel Treasury Editions, well, we still occasionally put one out — but they're not on any regular schedule. If you're talking about our magazine-sized *MARVEL SUPER SPECIALS* and *SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN* — they're not only still available, but they're better than ever! But the *real* reason your letter caught out attention, *Nettie*, was your mention of this strange concoction you call a "suicide!" We were fascinated! So we went out and bought up all those soft drinks and mixed 'em up, and sat down with the drink and a huge bag of chips to peruse the latest and greatest oversize Marvel epic! And ya know what? We almost got sick! The comic book was *great* — but that suicide drink! Yuck! You're made of *iron*, friend!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Dear **Jim** and **Crew**,

I have a problem. The only shop that sells Marvel Comics near where I live in Holland is *not* going to order posters and portfolios from Marvel Press. I am a big fan of **John Byrne**, and I must have the **Alpha Flight** poster and portfolio! What must I do?

Chris Kane
Dorpsstraat 18
3214 AG Zuidland
Holland

Here's what you can do, *Chris* — first send the name and address of the comics shop in question to our direct sales department, and they'll see what they can do. Meanwhile, check out the listings of other comics specialty shops in the U.S. and abroad in comics and fanzines to see if you can't send for them by mail.

Good luck!

And now — we don't usually like to get too serious in these pages, but we recently received a letter we couldn't ignore:

Dear Marvel,

Recently a friend of mine was in a terrible accident that left him paralyzed. When I visited him at the hospital every week, I would stop by the drugstore to buy him a few of your comics. Slowly but surely he got interested in them. Now, many months later he is a regular Marvel reader, and he looks forward to your comics every month. Thank you for an excellent source of entertainment for us both and many others. Comics are a thing that anyone can enjoy, and everyone should.

Ethan Gross
10 Granada Way
Ladue, MO 63124

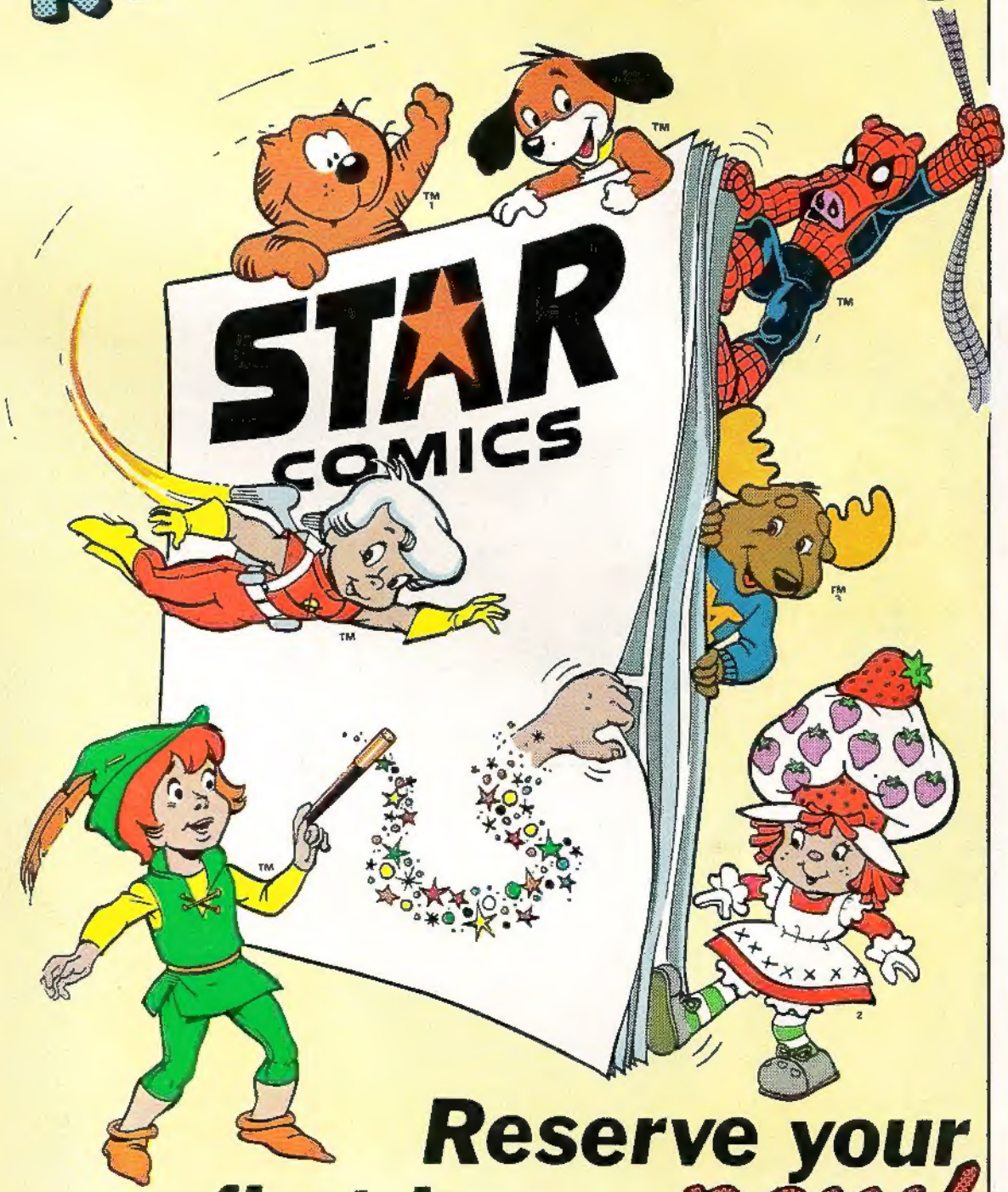
***Ethan*, there's nothing we find more gratifying than hearing that our stories can help make difficult and painful times a little better. Many thanks. Our very best wishes to you and your friend.**

And so, as we come to the end of another issue of *MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE*, we leave you with this thought! No matter what lies ahead — what the future may bring — or what may happen — Marvel Comics will always be the best! Ciao!

GET READY!

STAR COMICS™

are coming



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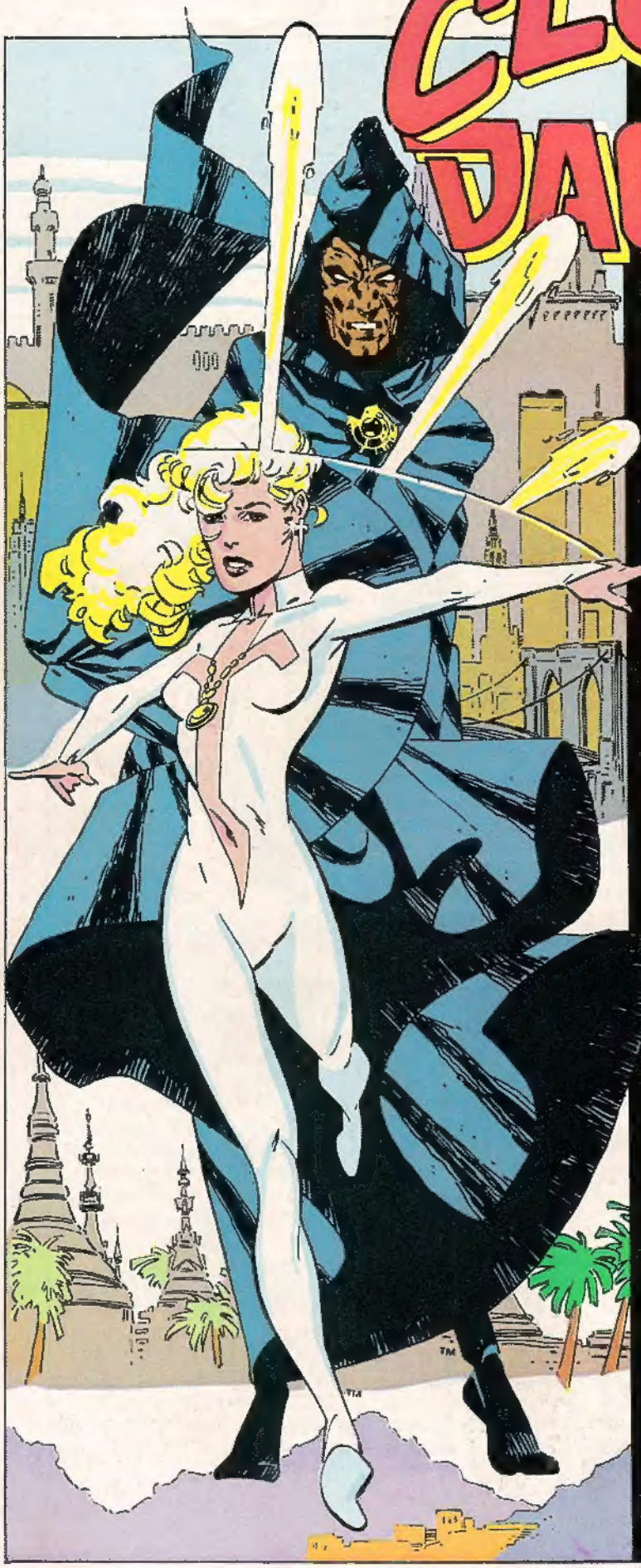

CLOAK AND DAGGER™

NOW IN THEIR OWN BI-MONTHLY COMIC

Because *you* loved their limited series, the servants of darkness and light will now lead you down exotic paths to adventure and excitement every 60 days.

By: Bill Mantlo
Rick Leonardi and
Terry Austin.

Issue #1 on sale in January.

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE.

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